

Appendix E

Haile Gold Mine EIS Agency Correspondence

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AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

This appendix documents formal correspondence between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and cooperating agencies, and other agencies and tribes, regarding the Haile Gold Mine Environmental Impact Statement (Table E-1). The letters included in the table are provided in the pages that follow. Emails and other non-formal correspondence between the USACE and other parties is included in this appendix but are logged in the Administrative Record for the Project.

Table E-1 Formal Correspondence Regarding the Haile Gold Mine EIS

Document Description	Date
Letter from Jay B. Herrington (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]) to Lt. Colonel Jason Kirk (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE]) re EIS required	03.29.11
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Marianne Depratter (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control [SCDHEC]) re agency coordination meeting	10.07.11
Letter invitation from USACE to Larry Long (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [USEPA]) for the January 25, 2012 meeting of the Public Involvement Advisory Group (PIAG)	12.20.11
Letter invitation from USACE to Chuck Hightower (SCDHEC) for the January 25, 2012 meeting of the PIAG	12.20.11
Letter invitation from USACE to Kelly Laycock (USEPA) for the January 25, 2012 meeting of the PIAG	12.20.11
Letter invitation from USACE to Marianna Depratter (SCDHEC) for the January 25, 2012 meeting of the PIAG	12.20.11
Letter invitation from USACE to Morgan Wolf (USFWS) for the January 25, 2012 meeting of the PIAG	12.20.11
Letter invitation from USACE to Vivianne Vejdani (South Carolina Department of Natural Resources [SCDNR]) for the January 25, 2012 meeting of the PIAG	12.20.11
Letter invitation from USACE to Wenonah Haire (Catawba Tribe) for the January 25, 2012 meeting of the PIAG	12.20.11
Letter invitation from USACE to Larry Long (USEPA) for the January 25, 2012 meeting of the PIAG	12.22.11
Letter invitation from USACE to Marianna Depratter (SCDHEC) for the January 25, 2012 meeting of the PIAG	12.22.11
Letter invitation from USACE to Steve Moore (SCWF) for the January 25, 2012 meeting of the PIAG	12.22.11
Letter invitation from USACE to Chris DeScherer (Southern Environmental Law Center) for the January 25, 2012 meeting of the PIAG	12.22.11
Letter from Wenonah Haire (Catawba Tribe) to Ramona Schneider (Haile Gold Mine, Inc. [Haile]) re Phase I survey report	02.10.12
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to agencies re Haile wildlife report	04.20.12
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Morgan Wolf (USFWS) re Haile wildlife report	04.20.12
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Vivianne Vejdani (SCDNR) re Haile wildlife report	04.23.12
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Jaclyn Daly (National Marine Fisheries Service) re Haile wildlife report	04.23.12
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Morgan Wolf (USFWS) re Haile wildlife report	04.23.12
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Kelly Laycock (USEPA) re Haile wildlife report	04.23.12

Table E-1 List of Formal Correspondence regarding Haile Gold Mine EIS (Continued)

Document Description	Date
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Kathy Sistare (Lancaster County) re request for Section 106 consultation	06.25.12
Letter from Environmental Resource Consultants to USACE re Final Jurisdictional Determination Report and USACE verification	10.19.12
Letter from USACE to Rebekah Dobrasko (State Historic Preservation Officer [SHPO]) regarding Phase I survey report	03.06.13
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Wenonah Haire (Catawba Tribe) re Traditional Cultural Properties	03.14.13
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Charles Coleman (Tribal Town) re Traditional Cultural Properties	03.14.13
Letter from Rebekah Dobrasko (SCDAH) to Richard Darden (USACE) re Phase I survey letter	04.01.13
Letter from Rebekah Dobrasko (SCDAH) to Richard Darden (USACE) re SHPO concurrence with Cultural Resources Study Area	04.15.13
Letter from William Harris (Catawba Tribe) to Richard Darden re Section 106 consultation invitation	05.10.12
Letter from R.S. Webb & Associates to Richard Darden (USACE) re Phase I 553 acres survey	05.15.13
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Emily Dale (SHPO) re three sites letter report	07.12.13
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Emily Dale (SHPO) re eligibility evaluation of Haile Gold Mine School shed	07.19.13
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Emily Dale (SHPO) re Phase I 553 acres survey report	07.19.13
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Emily Dale (SHPO) re significance of Haile Gold Mine	07.19.13
Letter from Bob Perry (SCDNR) to Richard Darden (USACE) re comments on the Haile Gold Mine Revised Mitigation Plan	09.16.13
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Emily Dale (SHPO) re Phase I 13 sites report	09.17.13
Letter from Emily Dale (SHPO) to Richard Darden (USACE) re Haile Gold Mine School shed	09.20.13
Letter from Emily Dale (SHPO) to Richard Darden (USACE) re Phase I testing of 13 sites report	10.14.13
Letter from Emily Dale (SHPO) to Richard Darden (USACE) re eligibility assessments: reconnaissance	10.23.13
Letter from Robert Webb (R.S. Webb & Associates) to Ramona Schnieder (Haile) re Phase II testing of 13 sites report	11.06.12
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Emily Dale (SHPO) re Phase II testing of 13 sites revised draft report	11.20.13
Letter from Richard Darden (USACE) to Reid Nelson (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation) re request for Section 106 consultation	12.04.13



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

March 29, 2011



Lt. Colonel Jason A. Kirk
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1949 Industrial Park Road, Room 140
Conway, SC 29526

Attn: Sharon Abbott

Re: P/N SAC-1992-24122-4IA, Haile Gold Mine, Inc., Kershaw, Lancaster County, SC
FWS Log No. 2011-CPA-0059

Dear Colonel Kirk:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the above-referenced public notice with regard to the effects the proposed project may have on Federal trust resources. Our comments are submitted in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1341) and section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543). This letter also serves as official comments to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Complete details regarding project activities can be found in the above-referenced public notice and corresponding Environmental Assessments (EA). Briefly, the proposed work consists of the excavation and fill of 161.81 acres of wetlands and 38,775 linear feet of streams during a phased mining plan involving 8 pits that will take place over a 12 year period at Haile Gold Mine in Lancaster County, SC.

Due to the scope, complexity, and extent of potential impacts, the Service believes that the applicant should develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to provide a more thorough review of project activities and possible impacts to the environment, including impacts to Trust resources such as threatened and endangered species, critical habitat, and migratory birds. Specifically, an EIS should provide, at a minimum, the following information essential to the evaluation of the project's impacts:

- The purpose and need for the project;
- A construction alternatives analysis with justification on selection of a preferred alternative;
- Indirect and cumulative, long-term impacts to the surrounding area, particularly downstream habitats and water quality;

- Groundwater modeling and characterization studies and results;
- Emergency response and/or contingency plans, specifically those plans involving hazardous materials/substances;
- Post closure monitoring plans: should address protocols, parameters measured, interpretation of results, and reporting requirements;

We have reviewed the project for potential adverse impacts to federally protected species and critical habitat. Based on the information received, we concur with a determination that this project is not likely to adversely affect any federally protected species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. In view of this, we believe that the requirements of Section 7 of the Act have been satisfied. However, obligations under Section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered, (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner which was not considered in this assessment, or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat is determined that may be affected by the identified action.

As it pertains to the federally endangered Carolina heelsplitter (*Lasmigona decorata*), the Service offers the following comments regarding the Conceptual Mitigation Plan that was prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Charleston District (Corps). As currently proposed, the mitigation plan for this project supports protection and recovery efforts for the Carolina heelsplitter in the Lynches River watershed, and also helps satisfy the Corps' obligations under section 7(a)(1) of the Act which states: "...All other Federal agencies shall, in consultation with and with the assistance of the Secretary, utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of this Act by carrying out programs for the conservation of endangered species listed pursuant to section 4 of this Act." Specifically, the Flat Creek Heritage Preserve Expansion Area would protect 7,000 feet (1.3 miles) of occupied critical habitat in Flat Creek. Flat Creek is a priority tributary for the recovery of the species, as it contains the most viable surviving population of the Carolina heelsplitter. The mitigation plan also works towards restoring and improving water quality and aquatic function in the entire watershed by focusing on headwater areas located within the recently developed Lynches River TMDL.

After reviewing the public notice, environmental assessment, and conceptual mitigation plan for the project, the Service has several concerns that were not addressed in these materials. Until the above listed information is supplied by the applicant, we recommend that the permit be held in abeyance. We recommend that you consider comments made by other Federal or State agencies regarding this project. If you have questions regarding this correspondence or need further assistance please contact Ms. Morgan Wolf at (843) 727-4707 ext. 219 and reference FWS Log No. 2011-CPA-0059.

Sincerely,



Jay B. Herrington
Field Supervisor



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

October 7, 2011

Regulatory Division

Marianna Depratter
S. C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control
Mining and Reclamation Program
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Subject: Agency Coordination Meeting
Haile Gold Mine EIS

Dear Ms. Depratter:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Haile Gold Mine project. An agency coordination meeting will be held on October 27, 2011, at 1:00 pm at the Train Depot at 106 North Cleveland Street Kershaw, SC, 29067. This interagency coordination meeting will provide an additional opportunity to share information about the project and solicit your input regarding any information and/or studies that should be incorporated into the content of the EIS. We recognize and appreciate that a number of agencies have already provided comments on the proposed project; however, we want to encourage your continued participation as we progress through the scoping process.

Haile Gold Mine, Inc. (Haile) has proposed to reactivate the existing Haile Gold Mine near Kershaw, SC to develop gold resources, to expand the area for open pit mining, and to construct associated facilities. As part of the EIS process, the USACE is proposing an interagency coordination process to help in identifying and evaluating the potential alternatives to and environmental effects of the proposed project. During this meeting we will:

- Present an overview of the proposed project;
- Discuss the NEPA process: how it will guide the development of the EIS; opportunities for agency review and input; the level of your agency's involvement; and
- Receive agency comments and concerns.

We also invite you to attend the upcoming public scoping meeting which will be held later the same day on Thursday October 27th starting at 5:00 pm EDT at the Andrew Jackson Recreation Center, 6354 N. Matson St., Kershaw, SC 29067 (see attached maps). For information about the permit application, please visit the project website we have launched

(<http://www.HaileGoldMineEIS.com>), which includes links to the two Public Notices and the USACE EIS Decision Package posted for this project.

Please confirm that your agency will participate in the agency meeting with an email to me (Richard.Darden@usace.army.mil). We look forward to seeing you on October 27 and working with you on this important EIS project.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at 843-329-8043 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.

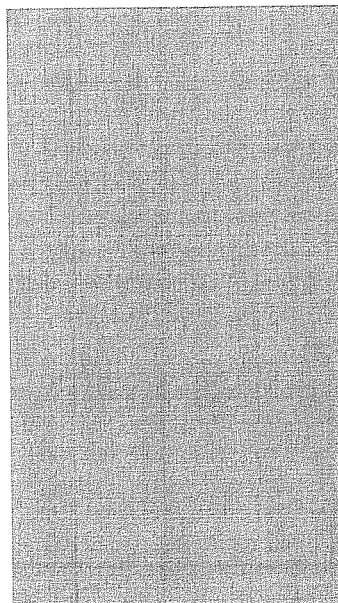
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Darden", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager

Attachments:

- A – Public Scoping Meeting Map and Directions
- B – Agency Coordination Meeting Map and Directions

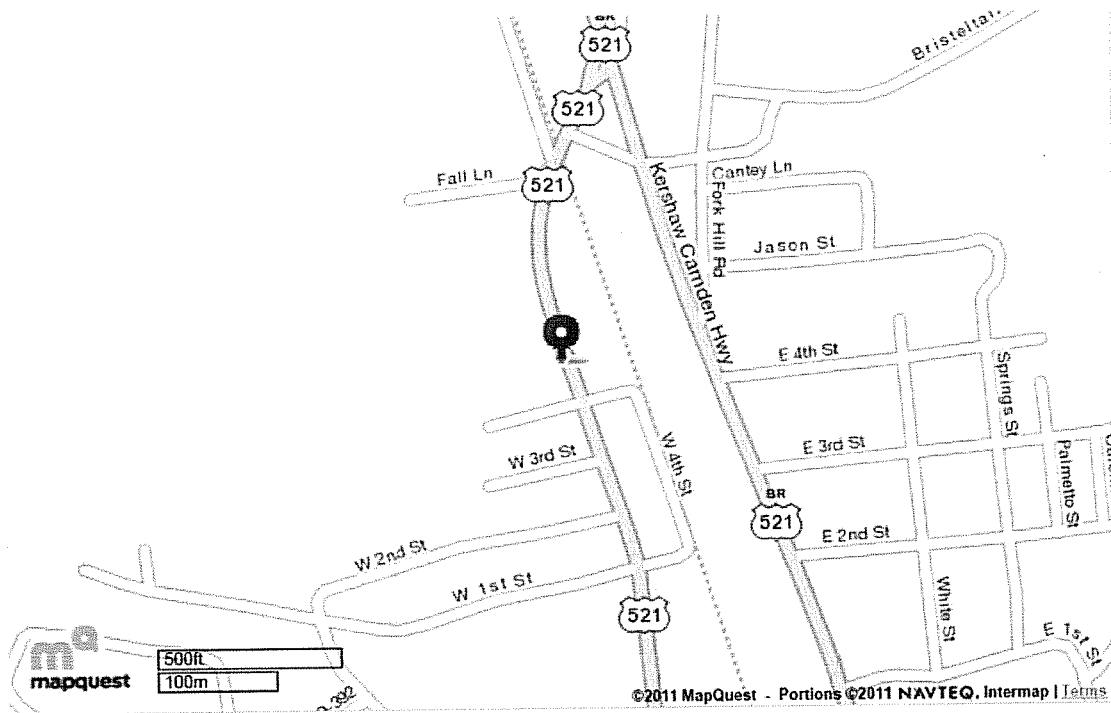


ATTACHMENT A



Map and Directions to the Public Scoping Meeting Location

(Andrew Jackson Recreation Center 6354 N Matson St, Kershaw, SC 29067)



From **Columbia, SC** to **Andrew Jackson Recreation Center 6354 N Matson St, Kershaw, SC 29067**

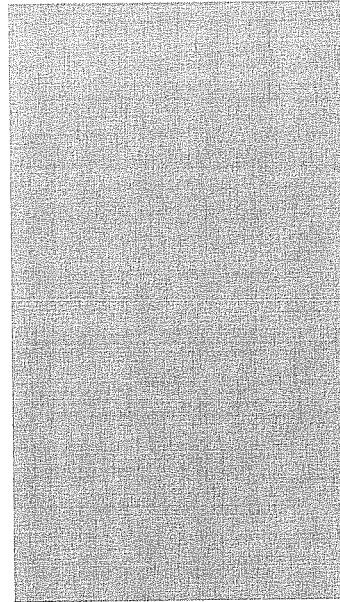
56.1 mi (about 1 hour 4 mins)

1. Head **east** on **Gervais St** toward **Main St** go 0.4 mi
2. Turn left onto **Bull St** go 1.6 mi
3. Continue onto **S Carolina 277 N** go 4.9 mi
4. Take the exit onto **I-20 E** toward **Florence** go 19.4 mi
5. Take exit **92** to merge onto **US-601 N** toward **Lugoff/Camden** go 7.8 mi
6. Turn left onto **US-521 N/US-601 N/Broad St** go 21 mi
Continue to follow **US-521 N/US-601 N**
7. Turn left onto **US-521 N/Matson St** go 1.3 mi
Destination will be on the left

From **Charlotte, NC** to **Andrew Jackson Recreation Center** 6354 N Matson St, Kershaw, SC 29067

59.1 mi (about 1 hour 13 mins)

1.	Head southwest on S Tryon St toward W 4th St	go 0.5 mi
2.	Turn right onto W Hill St	go 524 ft
3.	Take the ramp onto I-277 S	go 0.8 mi
4.	Take exit 1B for I-77 S/US-21 toward Columbia	go 0.3 mi
5.	Keep left at the fork to continue toward I-77 S/US-21 S	go 0.1 mi
6.	Keep left at the fork and merge onto I-77 S/US-21 S	go 6.6 mi
7.	Take exit 1B for I-485 E toward Pineville	go 1.4 mi
8.	Merge onto Interstate 485 Outer	go 5.7 mi
9.	Take exit 61 for US-521/Johnston Rd	go 0.2 mi
10.	Keep right at the fork and merge onto US-521 S/Johnston Rd Continue to follow US-521 S Entering South Carolina	go 25 mi
11.	Take the S Carolina 9 S/U.S. 521 S exit toward Camden	go 0.2 mi
12.	Merge onto S Carolina 9 S/US-521 BUS S/US-521 Bypass S/Lancaster Bypass W Continue to follow US-521 BUS S/US-521 Bypass S/Lancaster Bypass W	go 4.2 mi
13.	Continue straight onto US-521 S/Kershaw Camden Hwy Continue to follow US-521 S	go 8.4 mi
14.	Turn left onto US-521 S/Spring St Continue to follow US-521 S	go 5.6 mi
15.	Slight right onto US-521 S/N Matson St Destination will be on the right	go 0.2 mi



ATTACHMENT B



Map and Directions to the Agency Coordination Meeting Location

(Train Depot at 106 North Cleveland Street Kershaw, SC, 29067)



From Columbia, SC to Train Depot at 106 North Cleveland Street Kershaw, SC, 29067

(approx. 1 hour 15 mins)

1. Head **east** on **Gervais St** toward **Main St** 0.4 mi
2. Turn left onto **Bull St** 1.6 mi
3. Continue onto **S Carolina 277 N** 4.9 mi
4. Take the exit onto **I-20 E** toward **Florence** 19.3 mi
5. Take exit **92** to merge onto **US-601 N** toward **Lugoff/Camden** 7.8 mi
6. Turn left onto **US-521 N/US-601 N/Broad St**
Continue to follow US-521 N/US-601 N 20.9 mi
7. Turn left onto **Matson St** 0.4 mi
8. Turn right onto **W Marion St/State Rd S-29-13** 486 ft
9. Take the 1st left onto **N Cleveland St**
Destination will be on the right

From Charlotte, NC Train Depot at 106 North Cleveland Street Kershaw, SC, 29067
 (approx. 1 hour 20 mins)

1. Head **southwest** on **S Tryon St** toward **W 4th St** 0.5 mi
2. Turn right onto **W Hill St** 0.1 mi
3. Take the ramp onto **I-277 S** 0.8 mi
4. Take exit **1B** for **I-77 S/US-21** toward **Columbia** 0.3 mi
5. Keep left at the fork to continue toward **I-77 S/US-21 S** 0.1 mi
6. Keep left at the fork and merge onto **I-77 S/US-21 S** 6.6 mi
7. Take exit **1B** for **I-485 E** toward **Pineville** 1.4 mi
8. Merge onto **Interstate 485 Outer** 5.7 mi
9. Take exit **61** for **US-521/Johnston Rd** 0.2 mi
10. Keep right at the fork and merge onto **US-521 S/Johnston Rd**
 Continue to follow US-521 S
 Entering South Carolina 24.9 mi
11. Take the **S Carolina 9 S/U.S. 521 S** exit toward **Camden** 0.2 mi
12. Merge onto **S Carolina 9 S/US-521 BUS S/US-521 Bypass S/Lancaster Bypass W**
 Continue to follow US-521 BUS S/US-521 Bypass S/Lancaster Bypass W 4.2 mi
13. Continue straight onto **US-521 S/Kershaw Camden Hwy**
 Continue to follow US-521 S 8.3 mi
14. Turn left onto **US-521 S/Spring St**
 Continue to follow US-521 S 5.6 mi
15. Slight right onto **US-521 S/N Matson St** 1.0 mi
16. Turn left onto **W Marion St/State Rd S-29-13** 486 ft
17. Take the 1st left onto **N Cleveland St**
 Destination will be on the right



REPLY TO
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CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

December 20, 2011

Regulatory Division

Kelly Laycock
US Environmental Protection Agency
Wetlands Regulatory Section
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

Subject: Agency Coordination Meeting
Haile Gold Mine EIS

Dear Kelly:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Haile Gold Mine project. A second agency coordination meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2012, from 1:30PM EST to 3:30PM EST at the Train Depot located at 106 North Cleveland Street, Kershaw, SC 29067. This interagency coordination meeting will provide an additional opportunity to share information about the project and solicit your input regarding any data and/or studies that should be incorporated into the content of the EIS. We anticipate discussing our respective levels of review of applicant-supplied data, including discussion of additional data needs or concerns, scoping summary, alternatives to date, the process and critical path. We appreciate and encourage your continued participation as we progress through the EIS process.

Please confirm that your agency will participate in the agency meeting via email to me (Richard.Darden@usace.army.mil). We look forward to seeing you on January 25th and working with you on this important EIS project.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at 843-329-8043 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.

Respectfully,

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager



REPLY TO
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

December 20, 2011

Regulatory Division

Larry Long
US Environmental Protection Agency
NEPA Program Office
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

Subject: Agency Coordination Meeting
Haile Gold Mine EIS

Dear Larry:

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Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager



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CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

December 20, 2011

Regulatory Division

Chuck Hightower
S. C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control
Bureau of Water
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Subject: Agency Coordination Meeting
Haile Gold Mine EIS

Dear Chuck:

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December 20, 2011

Regulatory Division

Kelly Laycock
US Environmental Protection Agency
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61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

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Project Manager



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69A Hagood Avenue
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

December 20, 2011

Regulatory Division

Marianna Depratter
S. C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control
Mining and Reclamation Program
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Subject: Agency Coordination Meeting
Haile Gold Mine EIS

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Respectfully,

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

December 20, 2011

Regulatory Division

Morgan Wolf
United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200
Charleston, SC 29407

Subject: Agency Coordination Meeting
Haile Gold Mine EIS

Dear Morgan:

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Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

December 20, 2011

Regulatory Division

Vivianne Vejdani
SC Department of Natural Resources
1000 Assembly Street, Room 202
Columbia, SC 29202

Subject: Agency Coordination Meeting
Haile Gold Mine EIS

Dear Ms. Vejdani:

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Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager



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CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

December 20, 2011

Regulatory Division

Wenonah G. Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Catawba Indian Nation
1536 Tom Steven Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Subject: Cultural Resources Meeting
Haile Gold Mine EIS

Dear Wenonah:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Haile Gold Mine project. A cultural resources coordination meeting will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2012 from 9:30AM EST to 11:30AM EST at the Train Depot located at 106 North Cleveland Street, Kershaw, SC 29067. This meeting will provide an opportunity to share information about the project and solicit your input regarding any information and/or studies pertaining to cultural resources that should be incorporated into the content of the EIS. We want to encourage your participation as we progress through the EIS process.

Please confirm that you will participate in the cultural meeting via email to me (Richard.Darden@usace.army.mil). We look forward to seeing you on January 26th and working with you on this important EIS project.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at 843-329-8043 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.

Respectfully,

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

December 22, 2011

Regulatory Division

Larry Long
USEPA
61 Forsyth Street, S.W
Atlanta, GA 30303

Subject: Haile Gold Mine EIS Public Involvement Advisory Group Meeting

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) has initiated the environmental analysis and documentation for the Haile Gold Mine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As part of this effort, we have created a Public Involvement Advisory Group (Group) for the project to assist in a structured program of public information and input. The Public Involvement Advisory Group will play a vital role in the public involvement component of the project, and will include representatives of the various stakeholders and institutions within the Project Study Area. The Group is intended to serve as a sounding board for the Project Team and provide a forum for stakeholders to have direct input to the Project Team.

The proposed project, as described in the permit application which was filed on January 12, 2011, is to reactivate the existing Haile Gold Mine near Kershaw, SC for the development of gold resources, to expand the area for open pit mining, and to construct associated facilities. The Haile Gold Mine Site encompasses approximately 4,231 acres. Mining would occur in phases involving eight open mining pits over a twelve-year period, with pit depths ranging from 110 to 840 feet. The proposed work includes mechanized land clearing, grubbing, temporary stockpiling, filling, and excavation that would impact 161.81 acres of jurisdictional, freshwater wetlands and 38,775 linear feet of streams. Construction drawings provided by the applicant were included in the original joint public notice of January 28, 2011, and are available on the Haile Gold Mine EIS website at: <http://www.HaileGoldMineEIS.com> and at the USACE website at: <http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/?action=publicnotices.pn2011>.

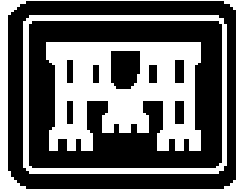
This letter invites you to participate in this Public Involvement Advisory Group, or to nominate a representative of your organization to participate in the Group. The USACE has scheduled a meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at the Camden Country Club, 111 Knights Hill Road, Camden, South Carolina 29020. The meeting will be held from 9:00AM EST to 12:00PM EST.

During this first meeting we will provide an introduction to the project, as well as the environmental study process, and the USACE's role and obligation in the EIS process. Other agenda items for this meeting and future meetings will generally include project issues as they arise during the environmental study process.

We are excited about the possibility of having you, or your designated representative, join us on this project so that, together, we can work toward an EIS that provides thorough and comprehensive documentation of the proposed project's impacts on the human environment, both beneficial and detrimental. Please contact Dr. Richard Darden, Project Manager, by telephone: 843-329-8043 or toll free 1-866-329-8187, or by email Richard.Darden@usace.army.mil to accept this invitation or nominate a representative, or if you have questions regarding this position and/or the project. We look forward to your assistance in this important and comprehensive process.

CHARLESTON DISTRICT
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December 22, 2011

Regulatory Division

Marianna Depratter
SC Department of Health and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Subject: Haile Gold Mine EIS Public Involvement Advisory Group Meeting

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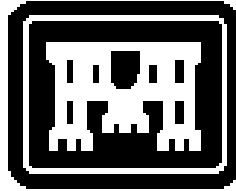
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CHARLESTON DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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December 22, 2011

Regulatory Division

Steve Moore
SCWF
215 Pickens St
Columbia, SC 29205

Subject: Haile Gold Mine EIS Public Involvement Advisory Group Meeting

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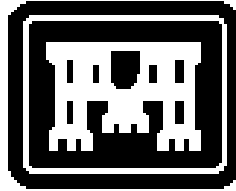
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December 22, 2011

Regulatory Division

Chris DeScherer
SELC
43 Broad Street, Suite 300
Charleston, SC 29401

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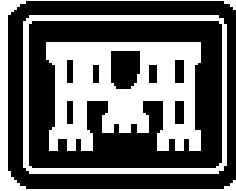
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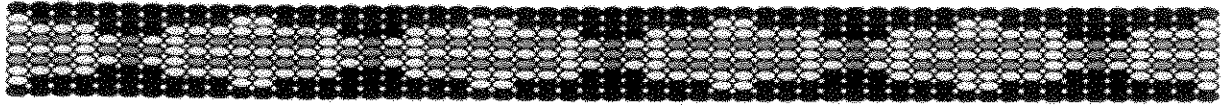
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Chris DeScherer
SELC
43 Broad Street, Suite 300
Charleston, SC 29401

Catawba Indian Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
1536 Tom Steven Road
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730

Office 803-328-2427
Fax 803-328-5791



February 10, 2012

Attention: Ramona Schneider
Haile Gold Mine, Inc.
P.O. Box 128
Kershaw, SC 29067

Re. THPO #	TCNS#	Project Description
2012-602-1		Phase I Report for Haile Mine

Dear Ms. Schneider,

The Catawba have no immediate concerns with regard to traditional cultural properties, sacred sites or Native American archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed project areas. **However, the Catawba are to be notified if Native American artifacts and / or human remains are located during the ground disturbance phase of this project.**

If you have questions please contact Caitlin Totherow at 803-328-2427 ext. 226, or e-mail caitlinh@ccppcrafts.com.

Sincerely,

Wenonah G. Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer



REPLY TO
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A Hagood Avenue
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

April 20, 2012

Regulatory Division

Ms. Morgan Wolf
United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
176 Croghan Spur Road Suite 200
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

Dear Ms. Wolf:

This is in regard to an application for a Department of the Army permit (SAC 1992-24211-4) submitted by Haile Gold Mine, Inc.

This office recently received a report from Haile Gold Mine, Inc. dated April 2, 2012. The report was received on CD, is titled "Comprehensive Baseline Wildlife Report" and includes the report text as well as an appendix. Your name was shown on the cc list as also having been sent a copy of this submittal. If you did not receive the information please let me know and I will see that you get it. In addition, if you require a printed copy I am happy to get one to you upon request.

Our review team at USACE/USEPA/Cardno ENTRIX is currently reviewing the document. Our intent is to evaluate, and independently verify as necessary, information presented in the report for its suitability for our use in preparing relevant portions of the EIS as well as continuing on-going coordination/consultation with your agency. On this basis we would appreciate any feedback from you in terms of comments or concerns relative to the report's methods, scope, and accuracy.

Please review the information at your earliest convenience and provide me any feedback you may have by **May 25, 2012**. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.

Respectfully,

Project Manager
Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.

cc: Paul Leonard, Cardno ENTRIX



REPLY TO
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

April 23, 2012

Regulatory Division

Ms. Vivianne Vejdani
SC Department of Natural Resources
1000 Assembly Street, Room 202
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Ms. Vejdani:

This is in regard to an application for a Department of the Army permit (SAC 1992-24211-4) submitted by Haile Gold Mine, Inc. As you know, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and USACE regulations at 33 CFR.

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Sincerely,

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager

Concur: dgh
DARDEN/RD-
SP/8043

Copy Furnished:

Mr. Paul Leonard, Cardno ENTRIX
891 Adair Avenue, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

APR 24 2012



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

April 23, 2012

Regulatory Division

Ms. Jaclyn Daly
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Conservation Division
219 Fort Johnson Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Dear Ms. Daly:

This is in regard to an application for a Department of the Army permit (SAC 1992-24211-4) submitted by Haile Gold Mine, Inc. As you know, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and USACE regulations at 33 CFR.

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Sincerely,

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager

Concur: dgh
DARDEN/RD-RC
SP/8043

APR 24 2012

Copy Furnished:

Mr. Paul Leonard, Cardno ENTRIX
891 Adair Avenue, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30306



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April 23, 2012

Regulatory Division

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Fish and Wildlife Service
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Concur: dgh
DARDEN/RD-
SP/8043

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Sincerely,

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager

APR 24 2012

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Mr. Paul Leonard, Cardno ENTRIX
891 Adair Avenue, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30306



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CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

April 23, 2012

Regulatory Division

Ms. Kelly Laycock
USEPA (Wetlands Regulatory Section)
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Ms. Laycock:

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Sincerely,

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager

Copy Furnished:

Mr. Paul Leonard, Cardno ENTRIX
891 Adair Avenue, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

APR 24 2012

June 25, 2012

Regulatory Division

Kathy Sistare, Chair
Lancaster City Council
101 N. Main Street
Lancaster, South Carolina 29721

Subject: **Haile Gold Mine, Inc., Lancaster County, South Carolina** – Request for Section 106 Consultation

Dear Chairwoman Sistare:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), in cooperation with the owner and operator of the Haile Gold Mine, Inc., are inviting Lancaster County to join us in Section 106 consultation. Federal agency participation includes the USACE as the lead agency and USEPA as cooperating agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Haile Gold Mine Project. The USACE will also serve as the lead federal agency for compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325. The EIS process began on September 29, 2011, when a Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the *Federal Register* (Volume 76, Number 189, p.60474), advertising a scoping meeting held on October 27, 2011 (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>). The USACE is conducting the Section 106 and NEPA processes concurrently for this project.

As a local government with jurisdiction over the area in which the effects of an undertaking may occur, Lancaster County is entitled to participate as a consulting party in the Section 106 process (36 CFR 800.2).

Project Summary

The USACE intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to identify the potential social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed construction and operation of a gold mine in order to extract and process gold from the Haile ore body in wetlands and streams associated with Haile Gold Mine Creek, by Haile Gold Mine, Inc. (Haile) in the vicinity of Kershaw, in Lancaster County, South Carolina (SC). The EIS will be prepared in two stages, a DEIS and a Final EIS (FEIS). Both of these documents will be circulated for public comment, and a Public Hearing will be held after the circulation of the DEIS. Ultimately, when the USACE is prepared to make a final decision on the application, the agency will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD).

Section 106 of the NHPA

The USACE is inviting you to participate in the Section 106 process. Because this effort will be conducted in a parallel track with the NEPA process, your participation will allow the USACE to closely coordinate the Section 106 requirements with the NEPA process. Information on the Area of Potential Effect (APE) will be sent to you following this letter. You may have already been contacted by the USACE regarding participating in consultation for this project if you are registered to receive notices for the Charleston office at: <http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/?action=publicnotices.signup>. If this is your first correspondence from the USACE, please consider receiving electronic notices to insure rapid and regular notification and updates. We also respectfully ask that you please respond to this letter to indicate your interest in becoming a consulting party for this project.

Potential Effects

This project has the potential to affect historic properties. Haile (Applicant) will be conducting field surveys to identify historic properties that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, within the proposed mine boundaries. After reviewing these surveys, the USACE will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO) in addition to other consulting parties, to identify measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to these historic properties. These measures may include avoidance, fencing sites or portions of sites to ensure that they are not disturbed during construction, monitoring of construction activities, data recovery at the sites, or creative mitigation strategies.

An Unanticipated Discoveries Plan (UDP) will be developed and implemented that will be reviewed and approved by the USACE and the consulting parties. This plan will describe measures to be followed in the event that previously undocumented cultural resources are discovered during construction activities. Measures in the UDP will include: documenting and evaluating the site; consulting with the SHPO or appropriate THPOs and additional consulting parties; and if required, implementing measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts to the site. There may be other agreements or mitigation documents that will be developed by the consulting parties, such as memorandum of agreements, programmatic agreements, and treatment plans.

Details of the Activity

The project proposed by Haile is to reactivate the existing Haile Gold Mine near Kershaw, SC for the development of gold resources, to expand the area for open pit mining, and to construct associated facilities. The Haile Gold Mine encompasses approximately 4,231 acres. Mining will occur in phases involving eight open mining pits over a twelve-year period, with pit depths ranging from 110 to 840 feet deep. The proposed work includes mechanized land clearing, grubbing, temporary stockpiling, filling, and excavation that will impact 162 acres of jurisdictional, freshwater wetlands and 38,775 linear feet of streams. Construction drawings provided by the applicant are included in the original joint public notice of January 28, 2011, and are available on Charleston District public web site at <http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/?action=publicnotices.pn2011>.

The DEIS is anticipated to be available late in 2012. A public hearing will be conducted following the release of the DEIS. Mining activities would begin in 2013 if permitted. If you wish to participate in consultation, please send me your response as soon as possible. All respondents will receive a Section 106 Consulting Party Designation and a complete information packet for the project. If you know of any additional parties (stakeholders) that might be interested in participating in this EIS or Section 106 process, please let me know. I look forward to your participation in the consultation process.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager
Regulatory Division
Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403



Ecological Resource Consultants, Inc.

35715 US Hwy. 40, Suite D204 ~ Evergreen, CO ~ 80439 ~ (303) 679-4820

Letter of Transmittal

Date: October 19, 2012

To: Richard L. Darden
US Army Corps of Engineers
Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
(843) 329-8043 (Phone)

From: David Blauch, Senior Ecologist, Ecological Resource Consultants, Inc.

Re: Haile Gold Mine Project – (Electronic CD) Final JD Report (Revised August 2012) & USACE Verification (SAC 1992-24122-4IA)

Dear Mr. Darden:

Please find enclosed a (revised) hard-copy Jurisdictional Waters of the US Wetland Delineation Map (Revised August 2012) - Key Sheet. The revision includes minor changes to Table 2. Aquatic Resource Description. Based on comments received from Robert Huff at the Conway Regulatory Office, all "Impoundments" have been changed from "Wetland" to "Waters" classification type. No other changes have been made to the August 2012 Revised Jurisdictional Determination Request Wetland Delineation Report as submitted on August 31, 2012. The enclosed Key Sheet is intended to replace the previously submitted map.

Additionally, please find enclosed a final project CD which includes the complete Jurisdictional Determination Request Wetland Delineation Report (Revised August 2012), the USACE verification letter and the final Approved Jurisdictional Determination Forms as completed by the USACE Conway Regulatory Office.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions. Thank you,

David J. Blauch, V.P., Senior Ecologist



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

March 6, 2013

Regulatory Division

Ms. Rebekah Dobrasko
State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives & History
8301 Parkland Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

Subject: Haile Gold Mine, Inc., Lancaster County, South Carolina SAC 1992-24122-41A
Cultural Resources Report Review of Report: Review of *Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of 553 Acres at Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina*, draft report dated March 29, 2012, by R.S. Webb & Associates

Dear Ms. Dobrasko:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE), in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Catawba Indian Nation (CIN), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As part of this action, USACE is in consultation with the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and other consulting parties in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and 33 CFR 325 Appendix C regarding cultural resources impacts associated with this project. As the lead agency pursuant to NEPA, the USACE will review all cultural resources reports prepared for this project within the proposed project boundaries, as well as within the identified NHPA Study Area. The USACE will evaluate historic significance and determine National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of identified properties in consultation with the SHPO and any tribes that attach religious or cultural significance to the identified properties.

The USACE has completed the review of *Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of 553 Acres at Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina*, draft report dated March 29, 2012, by R.S. Webb & Associates.

In consultation with your office, we find the report to be sufficient for SHPO review, although we will ask that Haile Gold Mine, Inc./R.S. Webb & Associates address the attached technical revisions in the final report. As a result of this survey, 32 archeological sites, 15 isolated finds, and 13 architectural resources were identified.

Based on the information provided in the report, we have determined that the archeological sites 38LA663, 38LA735-38LA741, 38LA746-38LA752, 38LA754, 38LA756-38LA759, 38LA761, and 38KE1158 do not meet the minimum criteria to be considered eligible for the NRHP. The USACE notes that although the cemetery recorded as archeological site 38LA761 is not eligible for the NRHP, it is protected under South Carolina law; avoidance and preservation are recommended.

The USACE does not agree with R.S. Webb & Associates' recommendations for sites 38LA742 and 38LA743. Based on the information provided in this report, Site 38LA742 appears to have limited variety (only lithic debitage, mostly flake fragments and a minor amount of sherds), limited quantity (18 total artifacts), and questionable clarity (no diagnostic tools, all sherds eroded). It is stated that there are some indications that ceramics and lithics could be vertically separated, but ceramics were found from 20-50 centimeters below surface (cmbs) and lithics from 20-60 cmbs, which are very similar depths. It is our opinion that the site holds little research potential based on this and does not require additional testing. Site 38LA743 appears to be very limited spatially (only one positive shovel test) and in terms of artifact variety and clarity (only non-diagnostic lithic reduction waste). Also, a lack of evidence of well-defined artifact bearing strata may suggest that intact features and middens are unlikely at this site. This along with the redundant nature of this site type within the area in our opinion suggests that the site holds little research potential and does not require additional testing. Archeological sites 38LA742 and 38LA743 do not meet the minimum criteria to be considered eligible for the NRHP.

The USACE has determined that 10 of the archeological sites (38LA356, 38LA622/641, 38LA666 Loci 2 and 3, 38LA742, 38LA745, 38LA753, 38LA755, and 38LA360) are unassessed and would require additional research and/or field evaluation to determine whether they meet the criteria for listing on the NRHP. If these archeological sites cannot be avoided, additional testing will be required.

Consistent with the report's recommendation, the USACE has determined that all 15 isolated finds and all 13 architectural resources (U/265-0953, U/265-0954, U/265-0964, U/265-1105, U/265-1106, U/265-1109, U/265-1110, U/265-1113 through U/265-1115, and U/265-1119 through U/265-1121) do not meet the minimum criteria to be considered eligible for the NRHP.

We respectfully request that your office review the report and provide any comments you believe are relevant. In addition, we ask for your concurrence with our determinations regarding cultural resources addressed in the report and summarized in this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Darden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "D".

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager

cc: Johnny Pappas, Haile Gold Mine, Inc.
 Marianna DePratter, SCDHEC-Mining
 Larry Long, USEPA
 Darin Steen, Catawba Indian Nation
 Alison Uno, Cardno ENTRIX

Technical Comments

Pages	Section	Comment
2	1.1, Fig. 1.1	It is difficult to distinguish the project area boundaries from roads on this map. Please use a more distinguishable color/symbol. Also, the size of area J on this map is different than that shown on Fig. 1.2c; please correct the appropriate map.
56	6.1	Please add Jackson 1986 reference to bibliography.
73	6.2.4.1, 2 nd paragraph	Please check artifact total in first sentence (39). If that refers only to subsurface artifacts and the rest were from surface collections, please make that clear.
General	Site sketch maps	When nearby site boundaries are shown on site sketch maps, they are labeled with temporary site designations that are not referred to elsewhere within the report. Please replace with assigned trinomial site numbers on all maps.
General	Artifact illustrations	Most artifact illustrations simply state "Actual size" for the scale. Due to the fact that images are often resized when printed or otherwise reproduced, please add a scale bar to these figures (one per figure should suffice as long as all individual artifact photos within the figures are properly sized). Other artifact illustrations (for example Fig 6.41 and Fig 6.48) do not include a statement of scale. Please add a scale bar to these figures as well.



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

March 6, 2013

Regulatory Division

Ms. Rebekah Dobrasko
State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives & History
8301 Parkland Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

Subject: Haile Gold Mine, Inc., Lancaster County, South Carolina SAC 1992-24122-41A
Cultural Resources Report Review of Report: Review of *Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of 553 Acres at Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina*, draft report dated March 29, 2012, by R.S. Webb & Associates

Dear Ms. Dobrasko:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE), in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Catawba Indian Nation (CIN), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As part of this action, USACE is in consultation with the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and other consulting parties in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and 33 CFR 325 Appendix C regarding cultural resources impacts associated with this project. As the lead agency pursuant to NEPA, the USACE will review all cultural resources reports prepared for this project within the proposed project boundaries, as well as within the identified NHPA Study Area. The USACE will evaluate historic significance and determine National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of identified properties in consultation with the SHPO and any tribes that attach religious or cultural significance to the identified properties.

The USACE has completed the review of *Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of 553 Acres at Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina*, draft report dated March 29, 2012, by R.S. Webb & Associates.

In consultation with your office, we find the report to be sufficient for SHPO review, although we will ask that Haile Gold Mine, Inc./R.S. Webb & Associates address the attached technical revisions in the final report. As a result of this survey, 32 archeological sites, 15 isolated finds, and 13 architectural resources were identified.

Based on the information provided in the report, we have determined that the archeological sites 38LA663, 38LA735-38LA741, 38LA746-38LA752, 38LA754, 38LA756-38LA759, 38LA761, and 38KE1158 do not meet the minimum criteria to be considered eligible for the NRHP. The USACE notes that although the cemetery recorded as archeological site 38LA761 is not eligible for the NRHP, it is protected under South Carolina law; avoidance and preservation are recommended.

The USACE does not agree with R.S. Webb & Associates' recommendations for sites 38LA742 and 38LA743. Based on the information provided in this report, Site 38LA742 appears to have limited variety (only lithic debitage, mostly flake fragments and a minor amount of sherds), limited quantity (18 total artifacts), and questionable clarity (no diagnostic tools, all sherds eroded). It is stated that there are some indications that ceramics and lithics could be vertically separated, but ceramics were found from 20-50 centimeters below surface (cmbs) and lithics from 20-60 cmbs, which are very similar depths. It is our opinion that the site holds little research potential based on this and does not require additional testing. Site 38LA743 appears to be very limited spatially (only one positive shovel test) and in terms of artifact variety and clarity (only non-diagnostic lithic reduction waste). Also, a lack of evidence of well-defined artifact bearing strata may suggest that intact features and middens are unlikely at this site. This along with the redundant nature of this site type within the area in our opinion suggests that the site holds little research potential and does not require additional testing. Archeological sites 38LA742 and 38LA743 do not meet the minimum criteria to be considered eligible for the NRHP.

The USACE has determined that 10 of the archeological sites (38LA356, 38LA622/641, 38LA666 Loci 2 and 3, 38LA742, 38LA745, 38LA753, 38LA755, and 38LA360) are unassessed and would require additional research and/or field evaluation to determine whether they meet the criteria for listing on the NRHP. If these archeological sites cannot be avoided, additional testing will be required.

Consistent with the report's recommendation, the USACE has determined that all 15 isolated finds and all 13 architectural resources (U/265-0953, U/265-0954, U/265-0964, U/265-1105, U/265-1106, U/265-1109, U/265-1110, U/265-1113 through U/265-1115, and U/265-1119 through U/265-1121) do not meet the minimum criteria to be considered eligible for the NRHP.

We respectfully request that your office review the report and provide any comments you believe are relevant. In addition, we ask for your concurrence with our determinations regarding cultural resources addressed in the report and summarized in this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Darden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "D".

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager

cc: Johnny Pappas, Haile Gold Mine, Inc.
 Marianna DePratter, SCDHEC-Mining
 Larry Long, USEPA
 Darin Steen, Catawba Indian Nation
 Alison Uno, Cardno ENTRIX

Technical Comments

Pages	Section	Comment
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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

March 14, 2013

Regulatory Division

Dr. Wenonah Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Catawba Indian Nation
1536 Tom Steven Road
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730

Subject: **Haile Gold Mine, Inc., Lancaster County, South Carolina SAC 1992-24122-41A**
Request for information concerning Traditional Cultural Properties

Dear Dr. Haire:

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and USACE regulations at 33 CFR 325 Appendix C regarding cultural resources impacts associated with the Haile Gold Mine Project (Project). The USACE is required to take into consideration the effects of the Project upon properties of religious and cultural significance, including Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs). The USACE acknowledges that the Catawba Indian Nation may have information regarding these types of historic properties within the Cultural Resources Study Area (see attached map). The USACE is requesting that the tribe share information about the identification of these resources so that any potential effects to historic properties can be identified and avoided or mitigated.

The USACE has received previous correspondence from the Catawba Indian Nation regarding TCPs in the Project area, including the attached letter from you to the applicant dated February 10, 2012, that stated the tribe had no immediate concerns regarding these resources. A second letter (attached) was received on May 10, 2012, which stated that the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) has been involved with assessing TCPs within the Area of Potential Effect. More recently, Paul Jones and McLane Evans, both of Cardno ENTRIX, spoke with Mr. Darin Steen on November 27, 2012, regarding the status of the Catawba's assessment of TCPs within the Project area. The USACE would like to follow-up on any information the Catawba Indian Nation may be able to offer with regard to TCPs.

The USACE is committed to consultation with the Catawba Indian Nation to resolve concerns about the confidentiality of information on any types of historic properties including TCPs, if identified by the tribe. This letter serves as a final request to the Catawba for any information

about properties of religious and cultural significance, including TCPs, within the Cultural Resources Study Area. I request your response within 30 days from the date of this letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact McLane Evans (813-367-0987; mclane.evans@cardno.com) or me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Darden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager

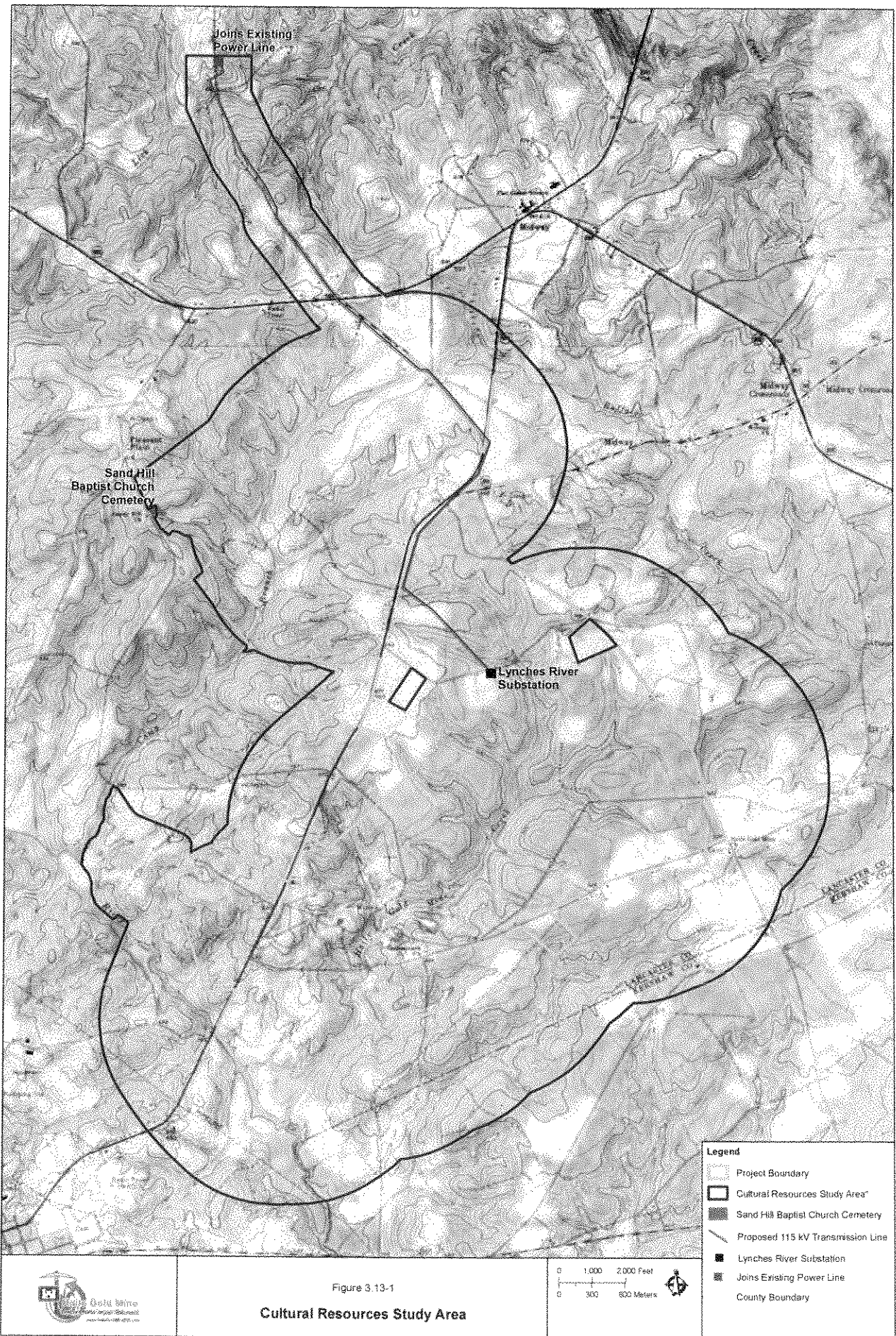
Copy Furnished:

Chief William Harris
The Catawba Indian Nation
Office of Tribal Government
996 Avenue of the Nations
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Mr. Darin Steen
The Catawba Indian Nation
Office of Tribal Government
996 Avenue of the Nations
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Ms. Rebekah Dobrasko
South Carolina Department of Archives & History
8301 Parkland Road
Columbia, SC 29223

McLane Evans, Cardno ENTRIX (via e-mail)





THE CATAWBA INDIAN NATION
OFFICE OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

996 AVENUE OF THE NATIONS, ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA 29730
TELEPHONE (803) 366-4792 FACSIMILE (803) 366-0629

May 10, 2012

Mr. Richard Darden, Project Manager
Regulatory Division – Charleston District
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, SC 29403

Re: SAC 1992-24122-41A

Dear Mr. Darden:

Thank you for inviting the Catawba Indian Nation to consult on a government-to-government basis regarding Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for the proposed Haile Gold Mine project. Although not specifically mentioned in your invitation letter, the Catawba Indian Nation also wishes to join in consultation with both the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

The Haile Gold Mine project is located in Lancaster County within the original 144,000 acres of aboriginal home lands of the Catawba Indian Nation. The area is rich in cultural and natural resources that have historical significance and importance to the Tribe. In addition, the Catawba Indian Nation retains and exercises their sovereign rights to hunt, fish, and gather within the State of South Carolina, therefore, the Tribe is interested in maintaining and protecting good environmental quality throughout South Carolina and especially within the Catawba's ceded territory.

The Catawba Indian Nation would like to participate as a *cooperating agency* in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Haile Gold Mine Project. The Catawba Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) has already been involved with assessing traditional cultural properties within the Area of Potential Effect. We also have professional environmental staff with expertise in air quality, water quality, wetlands and other potential resource impacts associated with large scale mining operations. The Catawba Indian Nation's early involvement and input will assist in the timely preparation and review of the EIS and associated technical documents in accordance with your federal trust responsibilities to the Tribe.

We look forward to becoming a participant in the NEPA process and working with your EIS team. If you have any questions or for future correspondence, please contact Darin Steen of my staff at 803-366-4792 or darin.steen@catawbaindian.net.

Sincerely,

Chief William Harris

Cc: Darin Steen, Environmental Services Director
Wenonah Haire, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Lisa Berrios, Tribal Coordinator, EPA Region 4



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

March 14, 2013

Regulatory Division

Mr. Charles Coleman
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
P.O. Box 188
Okemah, Oklahoma 74859

Subject: **Haile Gold Mine, Inc., Lancaster County, South Carolina SAC 1992-24122-4IA**
Request for information concerning Traditional Cultural Properties

Dear Mr. Coleman:

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and USACE regulations at 33 CFR 325 Appendix C regarding cultural resources impacts associated with the Haile Gold Mine Project (Project). The USACE is required to take into consideration the effects of the Project upon properties of religious and cultural significance, including Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs). The USACE acknowledges that the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town may have information regarding these types of historic properties within the Cultural Resources Study Area (see attached map). The USACE is requesting that the tribe share information about the identification of these resources so that any potential effects to historic properties can be identified and avoided or mitigated.

The USACE is committed to consulting with the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town to resolve concerns about the confidentiality of information on any types of historic properties including TCPs, if identified by the tribe. Please respond to us within 30 days from the date of this letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact McLane Evans (813-367-0987; mclane.evans@cardno.com) or myself if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Richard L. Darden", is written over a horizontal line.

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager

Copy Furnished:

Ms. Rebekah Dobrasko
State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives & History
8301 Parkland Avenue
Columbia, SC 29223

McLane Evans, Cardno ENTRIX (via e-mail)

April 1, 2013

Dr. Richard Darden
Regulatory Division
Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69A Hagood Ave.
Charleston, SC 29403



Re: Haile Gold Mine
Lancaster County, South Carolina
P/N #SAC 1992-24122-4IA
SHPO Project No. 09-CC0051

Dear Dr. Darden:

Thank you for your letter of March 6, which we received on March 15, regarding the above-referenced project. We also received two copies of the report *Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of 553 Acres at Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina* and the associated architectural survey cards as supporting documentation for this undertaking. The State Historic Preservation Office is providing comments to the Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800. Consultation with the SHPO is not a substitution for consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public.

Thirty-two new archaeological sites were identified as part of this survey and 13 architectural resources were identified. Our office concurs with your determination that sites 38LA0356, 38LA0360, 38LA0622/0641, portions of 38LA0666, 38LA0742, 38LA0745, 38LA0753, and 38LA0755 all need additional investigation and research to determine the eligibility of these sites for the National Register of Historic Places. Our office concurs with your determination that sites 38LA0663, 38LA0735-38LA0741, 38LA0742, 38LA0743, 38LA0746-38LA0752, 38LA0754, 38LA0756, 38LA0759, 38LA0761, 38KE1158 and architectural sites 0953, 0954, 0964, 1105, 1106, 1109, 1110, 1113-1115, and 1119-1121 are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Our office has also attached technical comments to be addressed in the final report. Please provide us with three bound hard copies, one unbound copy, and 2 PDF copies of the final report. If you have any questions, please contact me at (803) 896-6183 or dobrasko@scdah.state.sc.us.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Dobrasko

Rebekah Dobrasko
Supervisor of Compliance, Tax Incentives, and Survey
State Historic Preservation Office

cc: Keith Derting, SCIAA
Marianna DePratter, SCDHEC—Mining
Beth Gantt, R.W. Webb & Associates

Technical Comments, *Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of 553 Acres at Haile Gold Mine*

- Pg. 3, last sentence- "...the *South Carolina Statewide Survey of Historic Properties survey manual* (SHPO 2007)." Should be "...the *Survey Manual: South Carolina Statewide Survey of Historic Properties* (SHPO 2007)."
- Pg. 9, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence: "At SCDAH, ArcView, pertinent compliance..." Should ArcView be ArchSite?
- Pg. 15, under 2.4, 2nd paragraph, end of 1st sentence "(SCSHPO 2009)." The SHPO citation was previously referred to on pg. 3's last paragraph as (SHPO 2009). Please address.
- Pg. 31, 4.1 Paleoindian Period- what about Pre-Clovis? No mention of this concept or sites
- Pg. 34, bottom of page, need a space between paragraphs
- Pg. 37, *Emergent and Early Mississippian*. The term "Emergent Mississippian" applies to the American Bottom region of southwest Illinois. This specific concept is well defined and generally should not be used outside of the American Bottom. Instead, "Terminal Late Woodland" or just Early Mississippian is more appropriate.
- Pg. 60, *Current Survey Findings*, line 4 "(figures 6.2b and 6.3)"- capitalize Figures
- Pg. 99, Fig. 6.16. "Site D-4" please replace with state site number
- Pg. 92, Fig. 6.18 Site 38LA739 sketch map- What is black pound sign indicating? Please include in key.
- Pg. 121, 6.2.24, 1st paragraph, end of 2nd sentence- "...boundary of the Project Area.(Figures 6.2b and 6.34)." Delete period and add space between "Area" and "(Fig..."
- Pg. 144, 1st paragraph, 2nd to last sentence- "Along Tract D-East's eastern boundary, a vacant commercial chicken farming dominated the ridge." Should read "commercial chicken farm"
- Pg. 157, 1st full paragraph, end of 1st sentence "... (6.59-top)." Missing "Figure"
- General site sketch maps- some maps include blue asterisks, what do these indicate? Wetland? Please include in key.
- Consistency- archaeology section referred to "Criterion (d)" while architecture section uses "Criterion D."
- Newly recorded architecture resources- Although outbuildings are mentioned in the residences' discussions, it is not mentioned or clear that the outbuildings were recorded. Please add this information and appropriate resource numbers to the resource discussions.

April 15, 2013



Dr. Richard Darden
Regulatory Division
Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69A Hagood Ave.
Charleston, SC 29403

Re: Haile Gold Mine
Lancaster County, South Carolina
P/N #SAC-1992-24122-4IA
SHPO Project No. 09-CC0051

Dear Dr. Darden:

Thank you for your letter of April 2, which we received on April 8, regarding the above-referenced project. We also received a copy of the proposed Cultural Resources Study Area (Area of Potential Effect) as supporting documentation for this undertaking. We also received a copy of the revised public notice for this project. The State Historic Preservation Office is providing comments to the Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800. Consultation with the SHPO is not a substitution for consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public.

Our office concurs with your definition of the Cultural Resources Study Area (Area of Potential Effect). We understand that the APE will likely change based on the revisions to the public notice as well as revisions to the proposed wetland and stream mitigation projects. This APE is a good start for this project. We look forward to continuing to work with you and Haile Gold Mine on this project, as we understand Haile is currently developing a Cultural Resources Management Plan as well.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (803) 896-6183 or dobrasko@scdah.state.sc.us.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Dobrasko

Rebekah Dobrasko
Supervisor of Compliance, Tax Incentives, and Survey
State Historic Preservation Office

R.S. Webb & Associates
Cultural Resource Management Consultants
2800 Holly Springs Parkway, Suite 200 • P.O. Drawer 1319
Holly Springs, Georgia 30142
Phone: 770-345-0706 • Fax: 770-345-0707

May 15, 2013

Dr. Richard Darden
Regulatory Division
Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403

Subject: Comment Letter for the Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of
553 Acres at Haile Gold Mine Report
Lancaster and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina
P/N # SAC 1992-24122-41A
SHPO Project No. 09-CC0051

Dear Dr. Darden:

We are in receipt of the April 1, 2013 SHPO comment letter and technical comments for the *Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of 553 Acres at Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina* (attached). It is my understanding from a phone conversation with Ms. Rebekah Dobrasko of the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), that the comments were based on the Corps March 6 letter to the SHPO.

The letter has discrepancies in the site numbers listed in the second paragraph. We respectfully request clarification so that we can proceed with the revision of the report. Please see below:

<u>Site #</u>	<u>Requested Clarification</u>
38LA0360/38LA0760	38LA0360 is not in the 553-acre project area. Should this be 38LA0760? Site 38LA0760 is in the project report, but is not listed in the letter.
38LA0742	This site is listed in two places: 1) as needing further investigation and 2) as determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Our report indicates unassessed; avoidance/testing. Please clarify the Corps' NRHP eligibility determination.
38LA0743	This site is listed as determined not eligible. Was this the intended determination? Our report indicates unassessed; avoidance/testing.
38LA0744	This site was omitted in the letter, but is in the project report. Please clarify the NRHP eligibility determination for this site.

38LA0757 and 38LA0758

These sites were omitted in the letter. Please clarify the NRHP determination for these sites. Should they be part of a sequence of 38LA0756-38LA0759 (all not eligible)?

Thank you for your assistance with these clarifications. It would be helpful in preparing the final survey report if we could have the Corps letter and technical comments, as well as the SHPO letter and comments. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
R.S. Webb & Associates



Beth Gantt
Principal Archeologist

Attachment: April 1 SHPO letter



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

July 12, 2013

Regulatory Division

Emily Dale
State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives & History
8301 Parkland Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

Subject: **Haile Gold Mine, Inc., Lancaster County, South Carolina SAC 1992-24122-4IA**
Location and Phase I Delineation of Site 38LA155 / Field Reconnaissance for Sites
38LA37 and 38LA188, Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster County, South Carolina

Dear Ms. Dale:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) serves as the lead federal agency for compliance with *Appendix C of 33 CFR 325* regarding cultural resource impacts associated with the Haile Gold Mine Project (Project). Pursuant to *33 CFR 325 Appendix C Part 5* implementing the Natural Historic Preservation Act, the USACE requests the concurrence of the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in regard to its findings for the Determination of Eligibility (for the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]) and Determination of Project Effects for the Project to date.

The USACE has received the following cultural resources letter report for this Project written by R.S. Webb & Associates. A copy of the letter report is attached for your reference.

Gantt, Beth

2012 Location and Phase I Delineation of Site 38LA155/Field Reconnaissance
for Sites 38LA37 and 38LA188, Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster County,
South Carolina. R.S. Webb & Associates No. 12-658-008.

The USACE has reviewed the *Letter Report* and now requests concurrence on findings in relation to sites that are eligible for listing to the NRHP and Project Effects. The USACE has determined that sites 38LA037, 38LA188, and 38LA155 are not eligible for listing in the NRHP. Site 38LA037 and 38LA188 have likely been destroyed by land development activities and do not meet the minimum criteria to be considered eligible for the NRHP. Site 38LA155 does not meet the minimum criteria to be considered eligible for the NRHP due to its disturbed context and lack of cultural features. A "no historic properties affected" finding is appropriate for these resources.

The USACE has greatly appreciated your participation in this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager
Regulatory Division
Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403

Enclosure: Attachment A – RSWA Letter Report

cc: Johnny Pappas, Haile Gold Mine, Inc.
Marianna DePratter, SCDHEC-Mining
Larry Long, USEPA
Dr. Wenonah Haire, Catawba Indian Nation
Darin Steen, Catawba Indian Nation
Charles Coleman, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
McLane Evans, Cardno ENTRIX
Paul Leonard, Cardno ENTRIX
Alison Uno, Cardno ENTRIX



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

July 19, 2013

Regulatory Division

Emily Dale
State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives & History
8301 Parkland Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

Subject: **Haile Gold Mine, Inc., Lancaster County, South Carolina SAC 1992-24122-4IA**
Evaluation of Haile Gold Mine School Shed (265-1103.01)

Dear Ms. Dale:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) serves as the lead federal agency for compliance with *Appendix C of 33 CFR 325* regarding cultural resource impacts associated with the Haile Gold Mine Project (Project). Pursuant to *33 CFR 325 Appendix C Part 5* implementing the National Historic Preservation Act, the USACE requests the concurrence of the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in regard to its findings for the Determination of Eligibility (for the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]) and Determination of Project Effects for the Project to date.

The USACE has reviewed the following information from Haile Gold Mine, Inc. (Haile) regarding the structure recorded as the Haile Gold Mine School Shed (265-1103.01), which is briefly described below. Currently, the South Carolina SHPO considers both the Haile Gold Mine School (265-1103) and an outbuilding recorded as the Haile Gold Mine School Shed (265-1103.01) to be eligible for the NRHP. Based on the attached information, the USACE has evaluated the Haile Gold Mine School Shed (265-1103.01) as non-contributing to the Haile Gold Mine School (265-1103). As such, the USACE has determined the Haile Gold Mine School Shed is not eligible for the NRHP. A copy of the information and report excerpts concerning this resource are attached in chronological order for your reference.

1. Pope, Natalie Adams, Tracy Martin, Patrick Sullivan, and Sarah Stephens. 2011. Addendum Report: Cultural Resources Survey of Approximately 1,161 Acres; Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster County, South Carolina. New South Associates Technical Report 2050. Pages 170, 172-174, 193, 200.
2. Barnes, Jodi. November 15, 2011. Letter to Ramona Schneider, Haile Gold Mine, Inc. regarding Pope et al. (2011) draft report.
3. Barnes, Jodi. December 22, 2011. Letter to Ramona Schneider, Haile Gold Mine, Inc. regarding Pope et al. (2011) draft report.

4. Gantt, Mary Elizabeth, Jonathan Bloom, and Neil J. Bowen. 2012. Final Report: Phase I Cultural Resources Survey 145-Acres Haile Gold Mine Holdings, Lancaster County, South Carolina. R.S. Webb & Associates Project No. 11-658-001a. Pages 82, 84, 85, 89, and 97.
5. Barnes, Jodi. February 7, 2012. Letter to Ramona Schneider, Haile Gold Mine, Inc. regarding Pope et al. (2012) draft report.
6. Barnes, Jodi. March 26, 2012. Letter to Ramona Schneider, Haile Gold Mine, Inc. regarding Pope et al. (2012) final report.
7. Pappas, Johnny. September 24, 2012. Letter to Richard Darden, PhD, USACE, regarding removal of Haile Gold Mine Shed.
8. Gantt, Beth. September 12, 2012. Letter to Ramona Schneider, Haile Gold Mine, Inc. regarding Haile Gold Mine School Shed.

In 2011, New South Associates (NSA) conducted a survey of 1,161 acres in Lancaster County, South Carolina, for Haile. During this survey, NSA recorded the Haile Gold Mine School as 265-1103 and its attendant shed (build date estimated ca. 1960) as 265-1103.01. The NSA report recommended that the Haile Gold Mine School (265-1103) be considered as eligible for the NRHP, and described a property boundary that included Haile Gold Mine School Shed (265-1103.01) as a contributing structure (see Pope et al. 2011). Other than the Haile Gold Mine School Shed's estimated build date, no detailed explanation for why the shed was considered contributing and therefore eligible for the NRHP was provided in the Pope et al. 2011 report.

The SHPO reviewed NSA's 2011 report and agreed that the Haile Gold Mine School 265-1103 should be considered eligible for the NRHP; however, Haile Gold Mine School Shed (265-1103.01) was not specifically mentioned by the SHPO at this time (see Barnes, November 15, 2011).

In 2012, R.S. Webb & Associates (RSWA) surveyed 145 acres of Haile Gold Mine, Inc. holdings in Lancaster County, and revisited the Haile Gold Mine School (265-1103). In their report, RSWA agreed with the previous evaluation of the Haile Gold Mine School (265-1103) as eligible for the NRHP but no mention of the Haile Gold Mine School Shed (265-1103.01) was included (see Gantt et al. 2012). The SHPO's comments for their review of the RSWA report do not mention either Haile Gold Mine School (265-1103) or Haile Gold Mine School Shed (265-1103.01) (see Barnes, February 7, 2012).

The Haile Gold Mine School Shed (265-1103.01) was demolished sometime between May 2011 (field date indicated in NSA's report for architectural resources) and May 9, 2012. Subsequent to the removal of the shed, Haile provided the USACE with supplemental information compiled by RSWA regarding Haile Gold Mine School Shed (265-1103.01) (see Pappas 2012 and Gantt 2012). The additional information provided by Haile and RSWA demonstrated that the shed post-dated 1966 and was not built in conjunction with the use of Haile Gold Mine School (265-1103) as a school or parsonage.

Based on this information, the USACE has determined that the Haile Gold Mine School Shed (265-1103.01) is not a contributing feature of the Haile Gold Mine School (265-1103) and is not eligible for the NRHP.

The USACE appreciates your participation in this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager
Regulatory Division
Charleston District

Enclosure: Attachment A – Addendum Report: Cultural Resources Survey

cc: Johnny Pappas, Haile Gold Mine, Inc.
Marianna DePratter, SCDHEC Bureau of Mining
Alicia Rowe, SCDHEC Bureau of Water
Larry Long, USEPA
Dr. Wenonah Haire, Catawba Indian Nation
Darin Steen, Catawba Indian Nation
Charles Coleman, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
McLane Evans, Cardno ENTRIX
Paul Leonard, Cardno ENTRIX
Alison Uno, Cardno ENTRIX



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

July 19, 2013

Regulatory Division

Emily Dale
State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives & History
8301 Parkland Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

Subject: **Haile Gold Mine, Inc., Lancaster County, South Carolina SAC 1992-24122-4IA**
Cultural Resources Report Review of Report: Review of *Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of 553 Acres at Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina*, draft report dated March 29, 2012, by R.S. Webb & Associates

Dear Ms. Dale:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) serves as the lead federal agency for compliance with *Appendix C of 33 CFR 325* regarding cultural resource impacts associated with the Haile Gold Mine Project (Project). Pursuant to *33 CFR 325 Appendix C Part 5* implementing the National Historic Preservation Act, the USACE requests the concurrence of the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in regard to its findings for the Determination of Eligibility (for the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]) and Determination of Project Effects for the Project to date.

This letter serves to correct errors within the USACE letter to the SHPO dated March 6, 2013 and the SHPO letter to the USACE April 1, 2013 concerning the R.S. Webb & Associates draft report entitled *Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of 553 Acres at Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina*. R.S. Webb & Associates brought the errors to the USACE's attention. The USACE corrected these errors in a letter to Haile Gold Mine, Inc. on June 10, 2013. All aforementioned correspondence are attached to this letter for your reference.

The USACE is now requesting that the SHPO update and correct their site concurrence files for the Project. Table 1 lists the errors that have been corrected by the USACE.

Table 1. Errors within previous correspondence regarding Phase I report.

Site #	Requested Clarification from R.S. Webb & Associates	Response
38LA0360/ 38LA0760	38LA0360 is not in the 553-acre project area. Should this be 38LA0760? Site 38LA760 is in the project report, but is not listed in the letter.	There was a typographical error. The third paragraph on the second page of the USACE's letter dated February 14, 2013, should read: "The USACE concurs that 10 of the archaeological sites (38LA356, 38LA622/641, 38LA666 Loci 2 and 3, 38LA744, 38LA745, 38LA753, 38LA755, and 38LA760) are unassessed and would require additional research and/or field evaluation to determine whether they meet the criteria for listing on the NRHP. If these archeological sites cannot be avoided, additional testing will be required."
38LA0742	This site is listed in two places: 1) as needing further investigation and 2) as determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Our report indicated unassessed; avoidance/testing. Please clarify the Corps' NRHP eligibility determination.	The USACE considers 38LA0742 to be not eligible for the NRHP. The USACE's reasoning for this evaluation is provided on page 2, paragraph 2 of the letter dated February 14, 2013: "Based on the information provided in this report, Site 38LA742 appears to have limited variety (only lithic debitage, mostly flake fragments and a minor amount of sherds), limited quantity (18 total artifacts), and questionable clarity (no diagnostic tools, all sherds eroded). It is stated that there are some indications that ceramics and lithics could be vertically separated, but ceramics were found from 20-50 centimeters below surface (cmbs) and lithics from 20-60 cmbs, which are very similar depths. It is our opinion that the site holds little research potential based on this and does not require additional testing."
38LA0743	This site is listed as determined not eligible. Was this the intended determination? Our report indicates unassessed; avoidance/testing.	The USACE considers 38LA0743 to be not eligible for the NRHP. The USACE's reasoning for this evaluation is provided on page 2, paragraph 2 of the letter dated February 14, 2013: "Site 38LA743 appears to be very limited spatially (only one positive shovel test) and in terms of artifact variety and clarity (only non-diagnostic lithic reduction waste). Also, a lack of evidence of well-defined artifact bearing strata may suggest that intact features and middens are unlikely at this site. This along with the redundant nature of this site type within the area in our opinion suggests that the site holds little research potential and does not require additional testing."

Site #	Requested Clarification from R.S. Webb & Associates	Response
38LA0744	This site was omitted in the letter, but is in the project report. Please clarify the NRHP eligibility determination for this site.	There was a typographical error. The third paragraph on the second page of the USACE's letter dated February 14, 2013, should read: "The USACE concurs that 10 of the archaeological sites (38LA356, 38LA622/641, 38LA666 Loci 2 and 3, 38LA744, 38LA745, 38LA753, 38LA755, and 38LA760) are unassessed and would require additional research and/or field evaluation to determine whether they meet the criteria for listing on the NRHP. If these archeological sites cannot be avoided, additional testing will be required."
38LA0757 and 38LA0758	These sites were omitted in the letter. Please clarify the NRHP determination for these sites. Should they be part of a sequence of 38LA0756-38LA0759 (all not eligible)?	In the SCDAH's letter dated April 1, 2013, in paragraph 2, the site numbers 38LA0756 and 38LA0759 should have been separated by a hyphen rather than a comma, to indicate inclusion of sites 38LA0757 and 38LA0758.

The USACE has greatly appreciated your participation in this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
 Project Manager
 Regulatory Division
 Charleston District

Enclosure: Attachment A: Cultural Resources Report Review of Report – USACE to Haile Letters dated June 10, 2013 and March 6, 2013

cc: Johnny Pappas, Haile Gold Mine, Inc.
 Marianna DePratter, SCDHEC Bureau of Mining
 Alicia Rowe, SCDHEC Bureau of Water
 Larry Long, USEPA
 Dr. Wenonah Haire, Catawba Indian Nation
 Darin Steen, Catawba Indian Nation
 Charles Coleman, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
 McLane Evans, Cardno ENTRIX
 Paul Leonard, Cardno ENTRIX
 Alison Uno, Cardno ENTRIX



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

July 19, 2013

Regulatory Division

Emily Dale
State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives & History
8301 Parkland Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

Subject: Haile Gold Mine, Inc., Lancaster County, South Carolina SAC 1992-24122-4IA
Historic Significance of Haile Gold Mine

Dear Ms. Dale:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) serves as the lead federal agency for compliance with *Appendix C of 33 CFR 325* regarding cultural resource impacts associated with the Haile Gold Mine Project (Project). Pursuant to *33 CFR 325 Appendix C Part 5* implementing the National Historic Preservation Act, the USACE requests the concurrence of the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in regard to its findings for the Determination of Eligibility (for the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]) and Determination of Project Effects for the Project to date.

The South Carolina SHPO previously determined the Haile Gold Mine (0946) to be eligible for the NRHP in 2007. As the Haile Gold Mine is within the Cultural Resources Study Area of the Project (see Figure 1), the USACE further evaluated this historic resource for eligibility for the NRHP. The following provides a brief history and evaluation information for the Haile Gold Mine.

History

Gold mining efforts at Haile Gold Mine began in the 1820s, and continued on an episodic basis into the 21st century. In 1986, as part of a countywide survey of historic structures in Lancaster County conducted by Preservation Consultants, Inc., the South Carolina structure number 0946 was assigned to Haile Gold Mine. The survey report did not include Haile Gold Mine on a list of potential NRHP properties, but did identify the mine as a potential site for a historic marker. The State of South Carolina subsequently placed a historic marker for Haile Gold Mine at the intersection of Highway 601 and Haile Gold Mine Road.

The structure card completed in 1986 for Haile Gold Mine (0946) does not provide an evaluation of the historic significance of the mine, but does note that the mine had been altered by the demolition of structures. In the South Carolina ArchSite database, Haile Gold Mine (0946) is

mapped as a tetrahedron (see Figure 1) over some of the historic mining pits, but does not encompass the entire historic operations of the mine.

A 1993 cultural resource survey of property at Haile Gold Mine (Pluckhahn and Braley 1993) included the area recorded as 0946, but did not discuss that particular resource; none of the cultural resource studies completed at or near Haile Gold Mine since 1986 have discussed or evaluated the mine as a whole. Some subsequent cultural resource surveys have recorded specific elements of the mine, most notably the Stamp Mill (archaeological site 38LA383) and Haile Gold Mine School (structure 265-1103), both of which the SHPO considers to be eligible for the NRHP (Adams et al. 2012; Pope et al. 2011). The USACE recommends that both the Stamp Mill (38LA383) and Haile Gold Mine School (265-1103) continue to be considered eligible for the NRHP. While these individual properties are related to the historic mining operations at Haile Gold Mine, both 38LA383 and 265-1103 lie outside the mapped boundaries of 0946 (see Figure 1).

Eligibility

In 2007, representatives of the South Carolina SHPO reviewed the 1986 Lancaster County survey data to evaluate recorded properties for eligibility for listing in the NRHP. At that time, the SHPO determined Haile Gold Mine (0946) to be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

The National Park Service provides guidance for the evaluation of historic mining properties in its bulletin *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering Historic Mining Sites* (Noble and Spude 1997). Essential to such an evaluation is the question of whether a historic mine retains sufficient “integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association” to convey its significance. In the years since historic gold mining operations at Haile Gold Mine ceased during World War II, several episodes of mining and exploration have created significant changes to the mine’s historic landscape and design. The most extensive alterations occurred during mining and exploration in the 1990s, and during exploration and reclamation/closure in the early years of the 21st century. Changes to the mine’s appearance include expansion of historic pits, creation of new pits, use of historic dumps to fill pits, reclamation of pits as lakes, and capping of pits (Crowl et al. 2009; Gusek and Schneider 2010; Rowe and Turner 2005).

It is the USACE’s opinion that these alterations to the mine’s historic design along with the absence of any standing mine structures or equipment have reduced the historic integrity of Haile Gold Mine (0946) to the point that it is no longer eligible for the NRHP. Further, since Haile Gold Mine is not eligible for the NRHP no determination of effect is required.

The USACE is requesting concurrence from the South Carolina SHPO that the Haile Gold Mine (0946) is not eligible for listing on the NRHP.

Thank you for your continued assistance with the Haile Gold Mine Project. If you should have any questions in relation to our request for concurrence with our determination or consultation efforts to date for this Project, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager
Regulatory Division
Charleston District

cc: Johnny Pappas, Haile Gold Mine, Inc.
Marianna DePratter, SCDHEC Bureau of Mining
Alicia Rowe, SCDHEC Bureau of Water
Larry Long, USEPA
Dr. Wenonah Haire, Catawba Indian Nation
Darin Steen, Catawba Indian Nation
Paul Leonard, Cardno ENTRIX
McLane Evans, Cardno ENTRIX
Alison Uno, Cardno ENTRIX

References Cited

- Adams, Natalie P., Brad Botwick, and Mark Swanson
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Lancaster County, South Carolina. Prepared by New South Associates, Columbia,
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- Crowl, William J., Donald E. Hulse, Terre A. Lane, and Richard D. Moritz
2009 NI 43-101 Technical Report on the Resource Estimate at the Haile Gold Mine
Project, Lancaster County, South Carolina. Prepared by Gustavson Associates,
LLC.
- Gusek, James J., and Ramona Schneider
2010 Passive Management of Mining Influenced Water at the Haile Gold Mine, SC.
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Kershaw Counties, South Carolina. Prepared by Southeastern Archaeological
Services, Inc., Athens, Georgia. Prepared for Haile Mining Company, Inc.,
Kershaw, South Carolina.
- Pope, Natalie A., Tracy Martin, Patrick Sullivan, and Sarah Stephens
2011 Addendum Report: Cultural Resource Survey of Approximately 1,161 Acres:
Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster County, South Carolina. Prepared by New South
Associates, Columbia, South Carolina. Prepared for Haile Gold Mine, Inc.,
Kershaw, South Carolina.
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1986 Lancaster County, South Carolina, Historical and Architectural Inventory.
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- Rowe, Jerry, and Terry Turner
2005 Innovative Systems for ARD: Prevention and Management at the Kinross Haile
Gold Mine. Mining Environmental Management, March 2005.

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

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Alvin A. Taylor
Director
Robert D. Perry
Director, Office of
Environmental Programs

September 16, 2013

Dr. Richard L. Darden
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Charleston Regulatory Office
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403

REFERENCE: Haile Gold Mine Mitigation Plan, SAC 1992-24122-41A, July 9 2013

Dear Dr. Darden,

Personnel of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have reviewed the referenced plan which was provided for public review on July 19, 2013. DNR offers the following comments.

Background

The proposed reopening of Haile Gold Mine (Project) would impact approximately 120.46 acres of wetlands and 26,460.54 linear feet of streams designated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Charleston District (District) as waters of the United States (waters of the U.S.). These impacts have been reduced significantly by Haile Gold Mine, LLC (Applicant) through revisions to the original mine plan, which would have impacted approximately 160.81 acres of wetlands and 38,775 linear feet of streams. DNR appreciates the Applicant's efforts to avoid and minimize impacts to the greatest practicable extent, and agrees the Applicant's proposed mine plan represents the least damaging alternative that meets the Project's purpose.

The 2008 USACE and United States Environmental Protection Agency Mitigation Rule (Rule) and the USACE Charleston District Guidelines For Preparing A Compensatory Mitigation Plan, October 7, 2010 Revision (Guidelines) establishes an hierarchy for compensatory mitigation which requires, in order, purchase of established Mitigation Bank Credits, provision of In-Lieu-Fee Program Credits or Permittee Responsible Mitigation (PRM).

Due to the absence of mitigation banks or in-lieu-fee programs within the service area of the Project, the Applicant proposed a PRM conceptual mitigation plan (CMP) when the Project originally was public noticed on January 28, 2011. DNR commented on March 30, 2011 and relative to the CMP commended the applicant, in part, by noting:

... the proposed conceptual mitigation plan ... [is] within critical habitat for the federally endangered Carolina heelsplitter (Lasmigona decorata). The Applicant also proposes to preserve 758 acres of land adjacent to Forty-Acre Rock Heritage Preserve.¹

The CMP was revised in May 2011 (Revised CMP). Upon review of the Revised CMP, DNR in correspondence of June 30, 2011 raised a number of concerns. Of note, DNR stated:

DNR recognizes the Revised CMP is conceptual in nature; however, there is significant uncertainty regarding proposed mitigation sites, as some sites are still under negotiation. The Revised CMP makes reference to 3 additional sites that may become a part of the plan (Big Sandy Add-Ons, Fork Creek and the Lindsay tract) while others may be removed from consideration. The Revised CMP indicates that mitigation sites may be protected with restrictive covenant where it is not possible to secure a conservation easement, presumably because these lands are not under the control of the Applicant. Restrictive covenants are not an appropriate protective mechanism and are generally not acceptable for large mitigation projects. In some areas 50-75 feet of buffer is proposed. Minimum average buffer width should be at least 150 feet. Less than 25% of the overall proposed linear feet of stream restoration can be described as in-kind (15,269 linear feet). As calculated by the Applicant, required credits are estimated to be 296,396 stream and 1,842 wetland credits. The amount of credit proposed in the Revised CMP is barely more than the minimum required (106% stream, 105% wetland). For a project having this amount of impact to waters of the United States, DNR believes that substantially more mitigation should be required for the proposed project because the Mitigation Guidelines should only be used as a general reference for impact calculations as it is not designed to adequately enumerate the required mitigation for projects having large impacts [emphasis added].²

Subsequently, DNR had several meetings with the Applicant's agents to discuss aspects of the Revised CMP. In all of our conversations with the Applicant's agents we stressed the unusual, non-routine nature of the Project's proposed impacts, and we urged that the ultimate mitigation plan should be equally non-routine and not rely on the Charleston District Standard Operating Procedure for evaluating impacts to waters of the U.S. We urged that a PRM project be developed such that it contained elements of significance, considered a landscape scale approach meshing with established conservation priorities, focused on outstanding resources and included public use opportunities to benefit South Carolina.

DNR indicated satisfaction with the Rainbow Ranch component of the Revised CMP. Rainbow Ranch is adjacent to Forty Acre Rock Heritage Preserve, a high quality habitat deemed worthy of protection under the South Carolina Heritage Trust Program,³ and the privately owned Carolina Heelsplitter Conservation Bank.⁴ We pointed out that the Revised CMP's restoration component,

¹ See: March 30, 2011 DNR correspondence (Perry) to LTC Jason A. Kirk and Ms. Heather Preston.

² See: June 30, 2011 DNR correspondence (Frampton) to LTC Jason A. Kirk and Ms. Heather Preston.

³ South Carolina Code of Laws §51-17-10.

⁴ http://www.fws.gov/charleston/pdf/Heelsplitter/Carolina%20Heelsplitter_ConservationBank_FactSheet.pdf. Last accessed September 9, 2013.

which focused on fragmented stream and wetland restoration projects adjacent to multiple privately owned agricultural lands, to be unacceptable. DNR expressed concern that the proposed restoration was fraught with multiple shortcomings including issues of habitat and spatial fragmentation, concern over long-term stability and compliance, complicated monitoring, general uncertainty, the potential for contention over performance and the high likelihood of litigation that would grind the Project to a halt. Notwithstanding these issues, even under the best of circumstances, the Revised CMP would not be able to meet a landscape need and could not be deemed to include restoration or protection of outstanding resources. Adjacent agricultural practices likely would continue to impact restored streams and wetlands, and predictably would result in fragmented restoration and protection of wetlands and stream reaches that, all things considered, are average in terms of resource value providing limited utility in achieving meaningful water quality improvements within the watershed. Additionally, the Revised CMP would have provided for no public use benefits.

The DNR consultation approach continued to stress the need for a plan that would provide for ecological benefits commensurate with the scale and magnitude of the proposed impacts. We believe a strict adherence to the Guidelines, in the case of very large projects with large documented effects, is not appropriate and not of sufficient benefit to offset impacts. There clearly was a need for a plan that would protect high quality, outstanding resources at the landscape scale. DNR, on its own, investigated mitigation opportunities within the watershed that might meet this need. Considerable effort was expended within the Upper Lynches River Watershed to identify such opportunities. We determined the upper watershed to be characterized by complex landownership pattern comprised of many landowners and relatively small tracts where agricultural practices have created numerous impacts. Further, even individual stream reaches in the upper watershed are characterized by multiple landowners where the streams themselves often form property boundaries. We could not locate opportunities where anything like a landscape need could be met and where the sites could be made available. DNR explored opportunities in the lower Lynches River Watershed as well. Not until we had completed these efforts did DNR look outside the watershed for opportunities that we believed would meet the compensatory mitigation need.

The Rule provides the District Engineer (DE) the discretion to consider mitigation opportunities in adjacent watersheds where mitigation may have a “greater likelihood of offsetting project impacts” or are “environmentally preferable.”⁵ Mitigation through preservation may be accepted so long as the following criteria are met:

- Resources to be preserved provide important physical, chemical and biological functions and contribute significantly to the ecological sustainability of the watershed,
- The DE determines preservation is appropriate and practicable,
- Resources to be preserved are under threat of destruction or adverse modification, and
- The proposed preservation sites will be permanently protected by a third party conservation easement or title transfer to a state resource agency or land trust.⁶

⁵ (33 C.F.R. § 332.3(b)(6)).

⁶ 33 C.F.R. § 332.3(f).

Further, the Rule provides that preservation alone may compensate for permitted impacts “where preservation has been identified as a high priority using the watershed approach....”⁷ The Rule also acknowledges “public interest” factors in mitigation planning.⁸

Haile Gold Mine Mitigation Plan Version July 9, 2013

During its search for appropriate opportunities that would meet these criteria, DNR advised the Applicant that the properties known as Goodwill Plantation and Cook’s Mountain both in Richland County and located within the Wateree River Watershed, were available. We suggested to the Applicant that they explore these opportunities. Subsequently, the Applicant revised and resubmitted its mitigation plan.⁹ On July 19, 2013, the Charleston District published the Applicant's mitigation plan (Revised Plan). The objective of the Revised Plan is stated as:

. . . to mitigate for all of the impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Haile Gold Mine project site, by assuring that outstanding aquatic resources, as well as cultural and historic resources, are preserved and significant endowment is provided to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources for maintenance and management for the benefit of regional aquatic functions.

Thus, the Revised Plan would mitigate for all impacts to aquatic resources that would occur within the 4,552-acre project boundary of the proposed mine. Any future mining outside the currently proposed boundary would require additional, future analysis of potential effects and commensurate mitigation as then determined necessary.

The Revised Plan proposes the following:

- Preservation of the property known as Rainbow Ranch, which is adjacent to the Forty Acre Rock Heritage Preserve,
- Preservation of the Goodwill Plantation property (1,048.1 acres of wetlands and 30,706 lf of streams), and
- Preservation of Cooks Mountain (485.1 acres of wetlands and 28,292 lf of streams)

The Applicant intends that these sites be titled fee simple to DNR to be incorporated into the Heritage Trust Program and managed as Heritage Preserves in accordance with a Dedication Agreement. The Heritage Trust Program was established in 1976 under §51-17-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws to protect lands with unique and outstanding natural and cultural features. The Heritage Trust Program protects in perpetuity natural areas that contain unique landforms to include threatened, endangered, or unique plant or animal habitats, outstanding historic or archaeological features, or other unusual or outstanding scientific, educational, aesthetic or recreational characteristics. These properties all meet that legislative definition, and protection under the South Carolina Heritage Trust Act utilizes a long-term protection instrument that arguably is of a higher standard, e.g., protection by the State of South Carolina, than a

⁷ 33 C.F.R. § 332.3(h)(2).

⁸ 33 C.F.R. §332.1(d).

⁹ http://www.hailegoldmineeis.com/pdf/Haile_Revised_Mitigation_Plan_dated_July_9_2013.pdf. Last accessed Sept. 9, 2013.

conservation easement held by a qualified third party or other jurisdiction. In addition, the Applicant proposes to provide \$4.5 million for the maintenance and management of these sites, including activities such as wildlife enhancement and restoration. An endowment of \$4.9 million also will be provided for projects to benefit the endangered Carolina heelsplitter (*Lasmigona decorata*).

The Revised Plan provides a detailed accounting of the outstanding natural and cultural resources of each tract and the threats incurred by land use practices such as less-than-optimum forest and agriculture management, urban sprawl and residential development all of which substantially contribute to diminished water quality. Inclusion of the Rainbow Ranch property into Forty Acre Rock Heritage Preserve would protect 28.11 acres of wetlands and 19,714 lf of streams, increasing the area of the local Heritage Preserve by 30 percent, and it would protect federally designated critical habitat for the endangered heelsplitter mussel. Goodwill Plantation and Cook's Mountain are located within the COWASEE Basin Focus Area, a conservation initiative formed in 2005 by a partnership of private landowners, conservation organizations, land trusts and government agencies. Together, these tracts comprise over 1,500 acres of wetland and nearly 6 miles of high quality streams and riparian habitat.

DNR agrees with the Revised Plan and its objectives. The plan meets the Rule's criteria of preservation mitigation as it encompasses outstanding resources based on rigorous scientific and technical analysis. The South Carolina Heritage Trust Act and the DNR Heritage Trust Program constitute the highest order of long-term protection that can be provided by state government. The proposed endowment for long-term management is an outstanding financial trust that will allow DNR to manage the properties in a holistic, ecological manner and provide ample opportunities over the long-term to restore and enhance wetlands and streams on all three tracts.

DNR is uniquely qualified to serve as the long-term steward of the properties through its highly trained, professional staff of wildlife, fisheries, hydrology, forestry, archaeology, botany and other scientists. Further DNR staff is skilled at facilitation of a wide variety of public use programs to include, but not be limited to: fishing including fishing rodeos for youth, hunting (a variety of species will be available for hunting on all three tracts) to include programs and dates for youth hunting only, appreciative uses such as bird watching and nature study, educational programs such as Take One Make One^o and Archery in Schools^o, as well as hunter safety and general nature study.

We anticipate the development and execution of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the USACE and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control that will be the anchor for long-term stewardship. We expect the MOA will provide DNR with a limited number of reserved rights which will be entirely consistent with preserving the essential character of the tracts already identified as outstanding resources. For instance, one such reserved right would be to allow timber harvesting on select units of the tracts whereby the long-term ecological objective, if approved by the regulatory agencies, could be to plug ditches, restore hydrology and restore preferred bottomland hardwood species. Also DNR will have the opportunity to convert select uplands to longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), reducing fragmentation of this important habitat for the benefit of endangered, threatened and rare species and state species of concern, and restoring the historical ecotype to the landscape. These habitats are fire

Dr. Richard Darden
Haile Gold Mine Mitigation Plan, SAC 1992-24122-41A, July 9 2013
September 16, 2013

dependent, and DNR has the professional staff trained in the planning and implementation of prescribed fire for ecosystem management.

Rainbow Ranch is a natural fit for inclusion into the adjacent Forty Acre Rock Heritage Preserve. In concert with the endowment pledged for heelsplitter restoration, this represents one of the most unique and important features of the plan, and will provide for a first-of-its-kind program to benefit an imperiled species. This component of the plan has direct importance to the upper part of the watershed of impact where development pressures are impinging on heelsplitter habitat. In the absence of a significant program to offset heelsplitter habitat impacts, development interests in the upper part of the watershed are likely to impede restoration goals for the heelsplitter as well as delay or forestall routine and otherwise smaller-scale permitting of impacts to waters of the U.S. due to impacts to endangered species habitat. Finally, the South Carolina Code of Laws §50-3-180, Mitigation Trust Fund presents an appropriate vehicle to manage and disperse the total \$9.4 million endowment pledged by the Applicant. The Trust Fund has adequate monitoring and safeguard provisions ensuring deposited funds are spent only as prescribed and approved.

Summary

DNR appreciates that the Applicant has proposed a compensatory mitigation that sets a new and high standard for non-routine projects that would result in significant impacts to waters of the U.S. We further appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the plan. Our opinion is that the plan is acceptable and commensurate with the scope and scale of the Project's anticipated effects.

If your offices require any additional information regarding these comments, please contact Vivianne Vejdani at vejdani@dnr.sc.gov or 803.734.4199.

Sincerely,



Bob Perry
Director, Office of Environmental Programs

c: Kelly Laycock – USEPA
Pace Wilber – NMFS
Jay Herrington – USFWS
Heather Preston – DHEC
Kent Coleman – DHEC
Alvin A. Taylor
Breck Carmichael
Vivianne Vejdani



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

September 17, 2013

Regulatory Division

Ms. Emily Dale
State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives & History
8301 Parkland Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

Subject: **Haile Gold Mine, Inc., Lancaster County, South Carolina SAC 1992-24122-4IA**
Review of Report: *Phase II Archaeological Investigations at Sites 38LA588, 38LA589, 38LA595, 38LA596, 38LA600, 38LA602, 38LA605, 38LA622, 38LA640, 38LA641, 38LA654, 38LA723, 38LA727 and Evaluations of Historic Architecture at 38LA640 and 38LA641, Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster County, South Carolina*, revised draft report dated June 10, 2013, by R.S. Webb & Associates; received July 1, 2013.

Dear Ms. Dale:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) serves as the lead federal agency for compliance with *Appendix C of 33 CFR 325* regarding cultural resource impacts associated with the Haile Gold Mine Project (Project). Pursuant to *33 CFR 325 Appendix C Part 5* implementing the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the USACE requests the concurrence of the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in regard to its findings for the Determination of Eligibility (for the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]) and Determination of Project Effects for resources addressed in this letter.

The USACE has received the following cultural resources letter report for this Project written by R.S. Webb & Associates. A copy of the draft report on CD is enclosed for your reference. To facilitate your review of the revised Report, a table containing USACE comments and Haile responses is also enclosed.

Webb, R.S., J.A. Bloom, D.E. Port, and N.J. Bowen
2013 Phase II Archaeological Investigations at Sites 38LA588, 38LA589, 38LA595, 38LA596, 38LA600, 38LA602, 38LA605, 38LA622, 38LA640, 38LA641, 38LA654, 38LA723, 38LA727 and Evaluations of Historic Architecture at 38LA640 and 38LA641, Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster County, South Carolina.
Revised draft report. . R.S. Webb & Associates No. 11-658-004.

The USACE has reviewed the *Revised Draft Report* and now requests concurrence on findings in relation to sites that are eligible for listing to the NRHP and Project Effects. The Revised Draft Report entails the Phase II eligibility testing of thirteen (13) archaeological sites, three of which contain previously recorded structures or structure remains that were the subject of archival and/or architectural study. The USACE has determined that sites 38LA588, 38LA589, 38LA595, 38LA596, 38LA600, 38LA602, 38LA605, 38LA622, 38LA641, and 38LA723, and structures 57/0951, 57/0959, and 57/0960 are not eligible for listing in the NRHP. A "no historic properties affected" finding is appropriate for these resources. The USACE has also determined that sites 38LA640, 38LA654, and 38LA727 are eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D. The USACE recognizes that the research potential of sites 38LA640, 38LA654, and 38LA727 is greater in some portions (or loci) of the individual sites than in other loci, but the USACE's Determination of Eligibility applies to each site in its entirety as mapped in the *Revised Draft Report*.

We respectfully request that your office review the report and provide any comments you believe are relevant. In addition, we ask for your concurrence with our determinations regarding cultural resources addressed in the report and summarized in this letter.

The USACE has greatly appreciated your participation in this project. If you should have any questions in relation to our request for concurrence with our determination or consultation efforts to date, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager

Enclosures

Copy Furnished:

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Table: Response to USACE Review Comments on Revised Draft Report by R.S. Webb & Associates Now Entitled, *Phase II Archeological Investigations at Sites 38LA588, 38LA589, 38LA595, 38LA596, 38LA600, 38LA602, 38LA605, 38LA622, 38LA640, 38LA641, 38LA654, 38LA723, 38LA727 and Evaluations of Historic Architecture at 38LA640 and 38LA641, Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster County, South Carolina, June 10, 2013*

Pages	Section	USACE Comment	Haile/RSWA Response	Page(s)/Figure(s)
19	3.5, paragraph 4	Dates on Caraway should probably read AD 1450-1750.	Temporal range for Caraway. The range for Caraway will be corrected in the revised report.	19
35	3.7.4	Please add Gregory (2012) citation to bibliography.	Gregory (2012) citation will be added to the bibliography.	337
38	4.2	Discussion of evaluation criteria is focused on archeological resources. Please describe the evaluation criteria used to assess significance and integrity of architectural resources.	Technically, the report is a Phase II archeological testing document designed to evaluate archeological resources (not architectural ones). Since we have sufficient information to evaluate the structures at 38LA640 and 38LA641, we will make the appropriate revisions to this section of the report and to the appropriate recommendations sections in the report.	38, 39, 50
61-67	6.0 Site 38LA588	<p>The evaluation of 38LA588 by New South Associates following their Phase I survey stated:</p> <p><i>"The historic component contains intact above ground features. Deposits appear to date to the earlier part of the occupation, suggesting that later twentieth-century trash disposal may have occurred off site. Due to these intact above ground features and the presence of artifacts dating to the early end of the site occupation, it is possible that additional data can be gathered to better understand occupation layout and spatial organization of early twentieth-century farmsteads."</i></p> <p>In the Phase I evaluation, both above ground features and the subsurface archeological deposits were key components of the recommendation for further work at 38LA588 in the form of Phase II testing. The report submitted</p>	<p>The decision not to conduct subsurface testing at 38LA588 was made after careful review of the Phase I survey data and through consultation with the South Carolina SHPO. The 2011 survey data indicates that this resource was constructed around 1915. The house burned sometime after 1986 and the remains were apparently razed. Examination of the site survey shovel test data revealed that 11 survey shovel tests were excavated within 5 to 30 meters of the house footprint and only three of those tests produced historic artifacts. The artifacts included clear container glass (n=2) and clear bottle glass (n=2). On this basis, artifacts around the house do not trend toward the early 20th century. In fact, it appears more likely that these items represent mass consumable containers that accumulated during the middle to late 20th century.</p> <p>With the above information in hand, Haile and RSWA consulted with Ms. Rebekah Dobrasko and Dr. Jodi Barnes of the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) (meeting on February 3, 2012; work plan dated February 10, 2012) and it was agreed that conducting archival research (including interviews), recording floor plans, and mapping internal site structure would be more appropriate and informative than conducting subsurface archeological testing at 38LA588.</p>	62, 63

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Pages	Section	USACE Comment	Haile/RSWA Response	Page(s)/Figure(s)
		by R.S. Webb & Associates only assessed the above ground features; it did not include archeological testing to assess the subsurface archeological deposits. Please include a section on archeological testing to fully address the eligibility evaluation from the Phase I Report. The archeological testing should have sufficient scope to evaluate the claim that early twentieth-century deposits relatively uncontaminated by later materials exist at the site. The overall integrity of the archeological deposit and its potential to add to our understanding of spatial organization at the farmstead should be comprehensively addressed through ground truthing added to the above ground feature examination and historic research completed to date.	During the Phase II study, the field approach agreed upon by the SHPO, Haile and RSWA was further supported by the presence of a mid-20 th century bottle/can dump 10 meters west of the house and by informant statements that the Faile family lived in this house during the 1960s and early 1970s. Based on the presence of multiple vehicles parked at the house in the 1986 structure survey form photograph, it appears that the house was occupied until at least 1986. While the structure may have been constructed in the early 20 th century, the survey data do not support the presence of an uncontaminated early 20 th century component, only one heavily laden with middle to late 20th century materials (including the bottle/can dump).	
67	6.5	Please provide an evaluation of the standing structure(s) previously recorded as U/57/959 with an application of NRHP criteria A, B, and C, in addition to D. Please provide specific eligibility recommendations with justification.	<p>We will address this comment in the revised report as follows:</p> <p>There are no intact standing structures present at 38LA588. The house burned and was razed in the late 1980s or 1990s, leaving only a brick chimney base and brick piers. The pole shed and animal pen have partially collapsed. We will provide NRHP evaluation statements/justifications for the limited architectural remains on this site. The architecture will be recommended ineligible for the NRHP under Criteria (a), (b), and (c) with supporting justification. The latter being, in their current poor and irreversible condition, the limited standing remains at 38LA588 convey nothing significant about broad patterns of history and are not associated with individuals</p>	68, 69

Table: Response to USACE Review Comments on Revised Draft Report by R.S. Webb & Associates Now Entitled, *Phase II Archeological Investigations at Sites 38LA4588, 38LA4589, 38LA4595, 38LA4596, 38LA4600, 38LA4602, 38LA4605, 38LA4622, 38LA4640, 38LA4641, 38LA4654, 38LA4723, 38LA4727 and Evaluations of Historic Architecture at 38LA4640 and 38LA4641, Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster County, South Carolina, June 10, 2013*

Pages	Section	USACE Comment	Haile/RSWA Response	Page(s)/Figure(s)
69	7.2.1, Figure 7.1	The Phase II map only shows previous Phase I site boundary, and that appears to have been previously misplaced according to relocated shovel tests. Please show on the map the revised site boundaries based on relocated Phase I shovel tests and Phase II testing.	<p>of historical significance; nor do these remains embody distinctive characteristics of historic architecture.</p> <p>Regarding NRHP eligibility recommendations under Criterion (d), the survey data, supported by the Phase II archival research, mapping, and general site walkover indicate that additional archeological investigations at 38LA588 will not add significantly to what is already known about this resource. The historic archeological component is ineligible for the NRHP. The four historic survey artifacts recovered from within 30 meters of the house (i.e., the inner zone or core of the farmstead) date to the middle or even late 20th century and point to a light subsurface archeological deposit dominated by modern domestic trash.</p> <p>As requested, the site boundary will be revised based on Phase I survey and Phase II testing data.</p>	71 (Figure 7.1)
78	8.2.1, Figure 8.1	Surface collection noted as N500/E584 should probably read N500/E484, according to grid ticks. Also, please show a revised site boundary based on Phase II shovel tests on the map.	As requested, the surface collection provenience will be corrected and the site boundaries revised based on Phase II Shovel test locations.	80 (Figure 8.1)
80	8.2.1, last paragraph	Grid station N500/E584 should probably read N500/E484.	As requested, the station value N500/E584 will be changed to N500/E484.	82
81	8.2.1, Figure 8.2	It is unclear why shovel testing was not continued to the southwest beyond N470/E500 (20 artifacts) and N460/E510 (8 artifacts). This appears to be a high density area of the site that	This will be clarified in the revised report. This part of 38LA595 has been mechanically pushed and superficially modified for various reasons, probably over a period of several years. We show the major push pile features in the area where shovel tests were excavated, beyond that, we do not show as much detail. The area southwest of	79, 80 (Figure 8.1)

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Pages	Section	USACE Comment	Haile/RSWA Response	Page(s)/Figure(s)
112	11.2.1, Figure 11.1	<p>was not fully explored. Please continue shovel testing or add an explanation as to why shovel testing was halted in this area.</p> <p>Please provide a description of the erosional gullies noted on the map within the vicinity of Locus 1 addressing how deep they were, whether they extended below artifact bearing soil zones, if artifacts were seen eroding into them, and whether the sides were inspected for eroding features.</p>	<p>subject shovel tests has similar disturbances, but a pile of trees had been laid down or pushed into this area and shovel testing was either not feasible or the test stations landed in areas of pushed or disturbed soils.</p> <p>The erosional gullies at 38LA602, Locus 1 are typically a meter or more deep, which puts gully floors well below the artifact bearing deposits at Locus 1 (50 centimeters below surface). The gully slopes were often covered with forest litter, but sometimes slopes were exposed. An occasional piece of debris or piece of fractured/cracked rock was observed, but not collected. No feature-like soil anomalies or rock clusters were observed on the exposed gully slopes.</p>	113, 114 (Figure 11.1)
114	11.2.1, Figure 11.2	<p>Within Locus 1, artifact densities from shovel tests appear to increase towards the northwest and west, but shovel testing was not continued in that direction. This also corresponds to the part of Locus 1 that yielded most of the ceramics. Please provide an explanation as to why shovel testing was not continued beyond these shovel tests.</p>	<p>The Locus 1 plan in Figure 11.2 does not show the full extent of the erosional gullies in this area, especially the large one west and northwest of high density shovel tests N500/E505 (n=38) and N505/E505 (n=43). Figure 11.2 will be revised to show the extent of this gully. The revised figure will show that the shovel test stations west/northwest of the two high-density tests fell within the gully. Test Unit 1 was excavated adjacent to shovel test N505/E505 in recognition of the fact that this shovel test not only had high artifact density, but also contained one of the three sherds found at Locus 1.</p>	114 (Figure 11.2), 115
146	14.1	Please add Preservation Consultants (1986) citation to bibliography.	Preservation Consultants (1986) will be added to the bibliography.	341
193	14.6	Please add Elliott and Webb (1992) and Cabak and Inkrot (1997) citations to bibliography.	Elliott and Webb (1992) and Cabak and Inkrot (1997) will be added to the bibliography.	336
205	14.8	Please provide an evaluation of the standing structure(s) previously recorded as U/57/960 with an application of NRHP criteria A, B, and	<p>We will address the evaluation of the standing architecture in the revised report as follows:</p> <p>The house at this site, called the Old Clyburn-Joe Mungo House, is in</p>	207

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Pages	Section	USACE Comment	Haile/RSWA Response	Page(s)/Figure(s)
		C, in addition to D: Please provide specific eligibility recommendations with justification.	<p>The advanced state of dilapidation and has partially collapsed. The animal pen, dog pen, and pole-shed remnants are in similar advanced stages of disrepair. The architecture will be recommended ineligible for the NRHP under Criteria (a), (b), and (c) for the following reasons. In addition to the fact that the house was moved to its current location in the 20th century, the roof and porch of the house have collapsed, and much historic fabric has been lost. Beyond what has already been recorded, the house and outbuildings convey no significant information about broad patterns of history, nor do they embody distinctive characteristics of historic architecture.</p> <p>Considering Criterion (b), the house may have been constructed and once occupied by members of the locally prominent Clyburn family. However, which member(s) of the family occupied the house could not be determined during the Phase II archival research. In addition, the house was moved to its current location in the early 20th century, after which the Mungo family occupied it for at least 20 years. On this basis, the house cannot be linked to a specific member of the Clyburn family.</p>	
206-252	15.0 Site 38LA641	<p>The evaluation of 38LA641 by New South Associates following their Phase I survey stated that the historic archeological component around the Clyburn House appeared to have good integrity. They stated: "Additional work around the Clyburn house can yield information regarding a certain strata of local society that can be compared to other sites in the region." This implies comparison of archeological deposits, but the Phase II did not include any archeological work in the vicinity of the Clyburn House.</p>	<p>The decision not to conduct subsurface testing at 38LA641 around the Clyburn-Ern Mungo House was made after careful review of the Phase I survey data, through consultation with the South Carolina SHPO, and after considering informant interviews. The 2011 survey data indicate that this resource was constructed in about 1915 and appeared to have once belonged to William Clyburn.</p> <p>Examination of the site survey shovel test data revealed that seven survey shovel tests were excavated within 30 to 50 meters of the house, none of which produced historic artifacts. The 19th century and early 20th century artifacts discussed in the Phase I report were located more than 200 meters away from the subject house. The closest historic artifacts to the house were recovered from two shovel tests near a collapsed vehicle shed about 65 meters to the west.</p>	209, 210

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Pages	Section	USACE Comment	Haile/RSWA Response	Page(s)/Figure(s)
		Please add a discussion as to why archeological work was not done and/or why the previous recommendation is no longer tenable in light of the historical and document research undertaken.	<p>Artifacts there included clear container glass (n=3), light blue container glass (n=1), and unidentified nail fragments (n=2). These were probably associated with the shed and not the house. There is no basis for assuming that the integrity of the historic archeological component at or near the house is good, or that it retains contextual clarity. Also, the construction date for the house could have been later than originally thought during the 1986 evaluation of U/57/0951. Electrification of the study area occurred during the 1930s and the integrated nature of the electrical wiring in the house could indicate that the house was built in the 1930s. It is also possible that the structure was wired at a later date. More importantly is what was learned about the occupational history of the property during Phase II archival research. While William Clyburn may have owned the house at 38LA641, it does not appear that he lived there. A member of his family stated that no member of her family ever lived there. Informant and census data indicate that Em Mungo and his family were tenants in the house from 1940 (possibly earlier) into the 1960s. Based on the boxed/scattered personal papers taken from the house during Phase II investigations, it appears that after the Mungos vacated the house, it was used for storage by William Clyburn or his family. Whatever the case, it does not appear that archeological deposits around the house are linked to the upper social strata of early to middle 20th century local society as was thought based on Phase I survey data. Instead, what is likely to be present is the typical tenant-based accumulation of mixed early to middle 20th century domestic discard and post-abandonment debris. Such deposits are not only marginal in age or modern, but they also tend to lack contextual clarity. On this basis, it was decided that Phase II subsurface work around the house would be unproductive.</p> <p>We will address the evaluation of the Clyburn-Em Mungo House in the revised report as follows:</p>	255
252	15.9	Please provide an evaluation of the standing structure(s) previously recorded as U/57/0951 with an		

Table: Response to USACE Review Comments on Revised Draft Report by R.S. Webb & Associates Now Entitled: *Phase II Archeological Investigations at Sites 38LA589, 38LA596, 38LA600, 38LA602, 38LA605, 38LA622, 38LA640, 38LA641, 38LA654, 38LA723, 38LA727 and Evaluations of Historic Architecture at 38LA640 and 38LA641, Hatle Gold Mine, Lancaster County, South Carolina, June 10, 2013*

Pages	Section	USACE Comment	Hatle/RSWA Response	Page(s)/Figure(s)
		application of NRHP criteria A, B, and C, in addition to D. Please provide specific eligibility recommendations with justification.	<p>This structure is still standing and the roof is mostly intact. However, the porch has collapsed, sections of lap board siding have been removed, and the sills are in an advanced state of decay. The Clyburn-Ern Mungo House will be recommended ineligible for the NRHP under Criteria (a), (b), and (c) for the following reasons. Due to the loss of historic fabric and the advanced decay, the house is no longer a good or complete representation of the early 20th century cell cottage form. It does not convey significant information about broad patterns of 20th century architectural history and is ineligible for the NRHP under Criterion (a). Regarding Criterion (b), William Clyburn may have owned this house, but a family member asserts that William and his family never lived in the house. The house is ineligible for the NRHP under Criterion (b) because it is not directly associated with this locally prominent member of the Clyburn family. Given its loss of fabric and dilapidation, the subject house does not embody distinctive characteristics of historic architecture and is considered ineligible for the NRHP under Criterion (c).</p> <p>Based on Phase I survey data and Phase II archival research, there is no basis for the assertion that the archeological deposits around the Clyburn-Ern Mungo house have the potential to provide insight into the lifeways of an early to middle 20th century upper class household. This resource is viewed as ineligible for the NRHP under Criterion (d) because it lacks contextual clarity and contains mixed material discard of late-early to middle 20th century tenants.</p>	
253-254	16-2	In the Phase I survey report that initially recorded 38LA654, New South Associates identified seven distinct areas that they recommended for further work. The Phase II investigation included testing at only four of these locations. Please provide	<p>In reviewing the Phase I specimen catalog for 38LA654, the three locations in question were not investigated because shovel test data suggested that these areas did not warrant Phase II investigation. More specifically, shovel test location Transect 329/STP 17 produced angular debris (n=5) and debitage (n=4) from 30 to 60 centimeters below surface. Some, or all of the angular debris may not be cultural (most lithic analysts have struggled with the origin of quartz angular</p>	257, 258

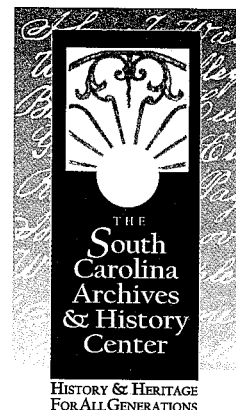
Table: Response to USACE Review Comments on Revised Draft Report by R.S. Webb & Associates Now Entitled, *Phase II Archeological Investigations at Sites 38LA588, 38LA589, 38LA595, 38LA596, 38LA600, 38LA602, 38LA605, 38LA622, 38LA640, 38LA641, 38LA654, 38LA723, 38LA727 and Evaluations of Historic Architecture at 38LA640 and 38LA641, Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster County, South Carolina, June 10, 2013*

Pages	Section	USACE Comment	Haile/RSWA Response	Page(s)/Figure(s)
		a discussion of the other three locations and what additional work was undertaken at them or an explanation as to why they were not tested.	debris, especially when quartz float naturally occurs in the area), and at best, the area sampled is not likely to yield anything new about early stage lithic reduction in the study region. The same argument is applicable to the locality of Transect 334/SPP-1, where even less angular debris (n=1) and debitage (n=11) were found. At the third location, transect 336/SPP-10, one piece of bone or horn was recovered from a plowzone context. While this would be of interest if extracted from an undisturbed or partially disturbed subplowzone context, an isolated piece of animal bone/horn too small to conclusively identify was not considered a priority during Phase II testing.	
265	16.2.3, Figure 16.8	The densest portions of the tested site appear to be at N355, E560-565 and at N340, E560-565. Please add an explanation as to why shovel testing was not continued to the northeast of the former area and to the southeast and east of the latter area.	Whenever possible, survey shovel test data were used to complement Phase II shovel testing data. Phase I survey shovel tests 15 meters east (N350/E575) and 18 to 20 meters northeast (N350/E590) of Phase II test N355/E565 yielded a total of three artifacts. Phase II shovel test N355/E585, which was 15 meters east of N355/E565, produced one artifact. One low-density test and a negative test were noted 5 to 15 meters north of N355/E560. Considering the low artifact yields, no further shovel testing was considered necessary in these areas. Regarding shovel testing south-southeast of Phase II test N340/E565, there was a negative Phase I shovel test (no station value in the Phase I report; outside site boundary) approximately 20 meters to the east and another negative survey shovel test about 3 meters to the south. This latter test was marked N335/E560, but is approximately N337/E566 on the Phase II shovel testing grid. Because of these findings, no additional shovel testing was considered necessary in this area.	268, 270 (Figure 16.8)
General	Artifact Illustrations	All artifact illustrations simply state "Actual size" for the scale. Due to the fact that images are often resized when	In the revised report each figure with artifact illustrations will have a graphic scale.	76, 89, 99, 111, 122, 139, 198, 200, 205, 251, 286, 288, 289,

Table: Response to USACE Review Comments on Revised Draft Report by R.S. Webb & Associates Now Entitled, *Phase II Archeological Investigations at Sites 38LA588, 38LA589, 38LA595, 38LA596, 38LA600, 38LA602, 38LA605, 38LA622, 38LA640, 38LA641, 38LA654, 38LA723, 38LA727 and Evaluations of Historic Architecture at 38LA640 and 38LA641, Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster County, South Carolina, June 10, 2013*

Pages	Section	USACE Comment	Haile/RSWA Response	Page(s)/Figure(s)
		printed or otherwise reproduced, please add a scale bar to these figures (one per figure should suffice as long as all individual artifact photos within the figures are properly sized).		317
General		At several sites, positive shovel tests extended beyond previously defined site boundaries. Please add revised site boundaries to appropriate site plans. Also, please add a complete map (similar to Fig. 1-1) or series of maps showing all sites with updated boundaries on a topographic quadrangle.	In the revised report, figures showing site boundaries (site plans and topo maps) will be modified as necessary to reflect site boundaries that changed due to Phase II testing.	Figures 1-1, 1-2, 2-1, 7-1, 7-2, 8-1, 8-2, 9-1, 10-1-10-4, 11-1, 12-1, 12-5, 12-8, 13-1, 13-2, 14-1, 14-13, 14-15, 15-9, 15-17, 15-18, 15-20, 15-23, 15-26, 16-1, 16-2, 16-7, 16-8, 16-12, 16-13, 16-15, 16-16, 17-1, 17-2, 18-1, 18-2
General	References	Please double check that all references are included in the bibliography.	For the revised report, all references will be checked and added to or removed from the bibliography.	

SEP 24 2013



September 20, 2013

Richard Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager
Department of the Army
Charleston District, Corps of Engineers
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, SC 29403

Re: Haile Gold Mine, Inc. – Evaluation of Haile Gold Mine School Shed (265-1103.01)
Lancaster County, South Carolina
SHPO Number 09-CC0051

Dear Richard Darden:

Thank you for your letter of July 19, which we received on July 26, regarding the above-named project. We also received report excerpts and past SHPO letters as supporting documentation for this undertaking. The State Historic Preservation Office is providing comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800. Consultation with the SHPO is not a substitution for consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public.

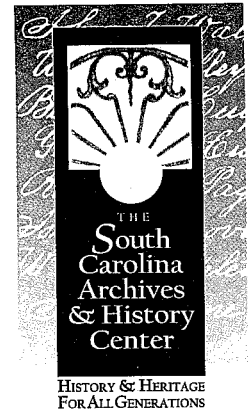
The South Carolina SHPO currently has the Haile Gold Mine School Shed recorded as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Haile Gold Mine, Inc. (Haile) demolished the shed at some point between 2011 and 2012. After demolishing the shed, Haile contracted R.S. Webb and Associates to conduct research to demonstrate that the shed was under 50 years old, which would have made it ineligible for listing in the NRHP. The COE has determined that the Haile Gold Mine School Shed is not a contributing element to the Haile Gold Mine School and is not eligible for listing in the NRHP. We concur with this determination. As the shed has been demolished, it is no longer eligible for listing on the NRHP, whether it was eligible for listing to begin with or not.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (803) 896-6181 or edale@scdah.state.sc.us.

Sincerely,

Emily Dale
Staff Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Office

OCT 22 2013



October 14, 2013

Richard Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager
Department of the Army
Charleston District, Corps of Engineers
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, SC29403

Re: Haile Gold Mine, Phase II Testing of 13 Sites, Revised Draft Report
Lancaster County, South Carolina
SHPO Number 09-CC0051

Dear Richard Darden:

Thank you for your letter of September 27 regarding the above-referenced project. We also received the report entitled *Phase II Archaeological Investigations at Sites 38LA588, 38LA589, 38LA595, 38LA596, 38LA600, 38LA602, 38LA605, 38LA622, 38LA640, 38LA641, 38LA654, 38LA723, 38LA727, and Evaluations of Historic Architecture at 38LA640 and 641* as supporting documentation for this undertaking. The State Historic Preservation Office is providing comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800. Consultation with the SHPO is not a substitution for consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public.

We are not able to concur with the eligibility determinations for the sites assessed in this report. We have some very general and specific concerns regarding both the prehistoric and historic sites that were investigated over the course of this project that should be addressed before determinations of eligibility can be made.

A review of the report indicates that the prehistoric sites investigated during the course of this evaluation were considered with specific research questions in mind that were tailored toward assessing domestic sites. It is understandable that with these questions in mind, all but one site were found to be ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). While we agree that most of the prehistoric sites in the project area are not eligible for listing on the NRHP as domestic sites, the fact that these are primarily quarry and not habitation sites has been overlooked. Additionally, feature identification through the location of soil and midden stains was an important component to the research design for these evaluations, a method that is not appropriate to sandy soils such as are found at Haile Gold Mine (Haile). While soil stains are typically not preserved in the Sandhills, other methods for feature identification have been developed to circumvent this difficulty such as geochemical analysis. The incorporation of geochemical analysis into research designs has been productive in finding living surfaces as well as features where they are not clearly visible.

Previous work conducted at Haile by New South and Associates (Adams et al. 2010) presented a number of useful ways of approaching not only sandy sites with poor feature preservation, but seemingly “redundant” quarry sites as well. In their phase III report, they conclude with a suite of recommendations for future research such as a closer examination of the primary and secondary sources of the lithic raw material and utilizing geoarchaeological and geochemical analyses to examine site structure. A macroscopic approach could also be applied to examine the importance of the quarries at Haile throughout the region. While the prehistoric sites evaluated in this project may seem to lack importance on an individual level, the ability to examine such a large group of similar sites that span several millennia presents a unique opportunity for comparative studies utilizing a diachronic approach.

In addition to the concerns above, we have some more specific comments that we would like to see addressed.

- None of the prehistoric archaeological sites were assessed under any Criterion other than D. While this is the most common Criterion under which prehistoric archaeological sites fall, it is not the only one. Please assess each site under all of the Criteria.
- On pages 119-121, a rock cluster is described and photographed along the eastern edge of Test Unit 2 at 38LA602. This rock cluster is described as non-cultural, but no clusters like this are described elsewhere and the Scope states that rock clusters will be fully exposed and excavated. On what basis was this rock cluster determined to be non-cultural? Why was the test unit not expanded to expose this?
- On page 143, 2nd paragraph (and throughout the report) Test Unit 1 was placed in to further explore the shovel test with the highest artifact density and diversity; however, when attempting to locate specific “elements and activity areas from quarrying”, artifact diversity is not necessarily desirable. We suggest you reconsider this strategy.
- The historic feature at site 36LA654, Locus 1 needs further research. R.S. Webb located what is described as a 19th century cellar/storage feature, and immediately states that “The presence of this feature implies that data may be present on the spatial organization of the slave cabin...” but provides no evidence that a slave cabin was ever present there or, indeed, that slave labor was ever employed at this property at all.

We will provide further comment on this report when our concerns have been addressed. If you have any questions, please contact me at (803) 896-6181 or edale@scdah.state.sc.us.

Sincerely,



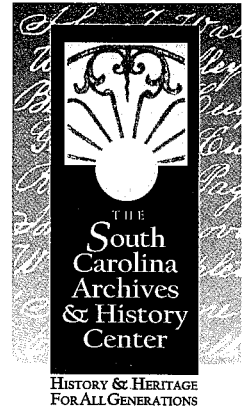
Emily Dale
Staff Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Office

References Cited

Natalie Adams, Leslie Branch-Raymer, Christopher T. Espenshade, Shawn M. Patch, Keith C. Seramur

2010 *Quarries, Blanks, and Bifaces: Data Recovery Excavations at Sites 38LA334 and 38LA355, Lancaster County, South Carolina.* New South Associates, Inc., Stone Mountain, Georgia.

October 23, 2013



Richard Darden, Ph.D.
Department of the Army
Charleston District, Corps of Engineers
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, SC 29403

Re: Haile Gold Mine, NRHP Eligibility Assessments: Reconnaissance at 38LA37
and 38LA188 and Delineation at 38LA155, Draft Report
Lancaster County, South Carolina
SHPO Number 09-CC0051

Dear Richard Darden:

Thank you for the updated site forms and your letter of September 30, which we received on October 3, regarding the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility determinations for 38LA155, 38LA37, and 38LA188. We have also received the letter report entitled *Location and Phase I Delineation of Site 38LA155; Field Reconnaissance for Sites 38LA37 and 38LA188, Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster County, South Carolina* as supporting documentation for this undertaking. The State Historic Preservation Office is providing comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800. Consultation with the SHPO is not a substitution for consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public.

The purpose of this archaeological reconnaissance was to relocate and describe the current condition of sites 38LA155, 38LA37, and 38LA188 and to assess them for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on the description of the archaeological sites, our office concurs with the assessment that sites 38LA155, 38LA37, and 38LA188 are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. We do, however, request that the attached technical corrections be addressed in the final report.

In order to complete the review, please submit a at least one (1) bound and one (1) unbound hard copies and two (2) digital copies in ADOBE Acrobat PDF format. Investigators should send all copies directly to the SHPO. The SHPO will distribute the appropriate copies to SCIAA.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (803) 896-6181 or edale@scdah.state.sc.us.

Sincerely,

Emily Dale
Staff Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Office

R.S. Webb & Associates

Cultural Resource Management Consultants
2800 Holly Springs Parkway, Suite 200 • P.O. Drawer 1319
Holly Springs, Georgia 30142
Phone: 770-345-0706 • Fax: 770-345-0707

November 6, 2013

Ms. Ramona Schneider
Haile Gold Mine, Inc.
7283 Haile Gold Mine Road
Kershaw, South Carolina 29067

Subject: Response to South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office Comments
R.S. Webb & Associates Phase II Testing Report on 13 Sites at Haile Gold Mine
Lancaster County, South Carolina
R.S. Webb & Associates No. 11-658-004
SHPO Number 09-CC0051

Dear Ms. Schneider:

R.S. Webb & Associates (RSWA) is pleased to submit this response to comments made by the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in a letter dated October 14, 2013. The comments issue concerns about RSWA's report entitled, *Phase II Archeological Investigations at Sites 38LA588, 38LA589, 38LA595, 38LA596, 38LA600, 38LA602, 38LA605, 38LA622, 38LA640, 38LA641, 38LA654, 38LA723, 38LA727 and Evaluations of Historic Architecture at 38LA640 and 38LA641*. Below we address the SHPO concerns individually. Please bear in mind that we can go into much greater detail about any of these issues if requested to do so at a later date.

Some of the suggestions made by the SHPO appear to be more appropriate for Phase III level investigations. These suggestions also go beyond the Scope of Work that Haile and RSWA presented to the SHPO on February 10, 2012, and that SHPO staff archeologist, Dr. Jodi Barnes, agreed was adequate in an e-mail dated February 21, 2012.

1) The SHPO asserts that RSWA overlooked the fact that most of the prehistoric sites investigated are "quarry" sites instead of "domestic" sites. Actually, only one of the sites tested, 38LA622, is a quarry/initial reduction locus. The remaining 20 prehistoric occupations/loci sampled range from very light lithic reduction loci/stations to fairly dense lithic reduction locations with minor/limited evidence of residential/domestic activities (e.g. task camps). Technically, the more dense lithic reduction loci appear to be a step or two advanced from extraction or even initial reduction localities. These sites look like locations where groups were gearing up with cores/bifaces. The general lack of group maintenance-related artifacts and features strongly suggests short term occupation.

2) The "feature identification through the location of soil and midden stains" problem on aeolian/marine sands landscapes and major stream levees is an issue we've (i.e., RSWA, our previous entities, and many others) wrestled with since the 1980s and before. However, this is not always an issue in such settings. Please recall that during the current Phase II project we visually detected, excavated, and recorded a radiocarbon-date-confirmed Middle Archaic-era pine stump feature at 38LA727. So, it is clearly possible to identify prehistoric archeological features and/or anthropogenic plumes at Haile Gold Mine. Furthermore, we've observed various natural soil discolorations (e.g., tree root discolorations, rodent features, insect drills in buried contexts) at a number of sites in similar sandy environments. The real issue is the temporary and specific task-driven nature of the occupation(s) being studied. If a small group spends 12 hours at a site and leaves little behind, their living space and the organization of that space will be archeologically invisible.

3) Use of “geochemical” analysis to find living surfaces and features at Haile Gold Mine. This request is beyond the scope of Phase II testing. Furthermore, based on the recent data recovery work at sites 38LA334 and 38LA355 (Adams *et al.* 2010), there is no clear evidence that geochemical test data (i.e., phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, magnetic susceptibility, organic matter concentration) directly correlate with prehistoric living space or any specific human activity. There is limited speculation/interpretation about what the results could mean, but nothing concrete. Simple presence/absence does not “explain” anything, and there are reasonable alternative explanations. Concentrations of magnesium and potassium for example, can be the result of forest fires, and calcium and phosphorus can be introduced by many kinds of living creatures. Considering these findings, I would respectfully recommend against these types of analyses at Haile Gold Mine - at least at the Phase I and II levels of investigation.

4) “Useful ways of approaching ... seemingly ‘redundant’ quarry sites...” To reiterate, only one of the 21 prehistoric occupations/loci qualifies as a quarry locus. Most of the loci RSWA evaluated are lithic reduction locations/stations geared toward core/biface production. Several manifest limited evidence of hunting/animal processing, biotic collection, and/or group maintenance activities. More importantly, the archeologically visible/currently interpretable information contained in these types of sites is highly redundant. That is undeniable. But that’s not the problem. Post-formational processes are the problem. In our research design, RSWA provides examples of how contextual clarity is limited -at best- on these kinds of sites at Haile Gold Mine. We would add to that the potential level of historic agricultural/silvicultural disturbance observed at the sites investigated. For us, this latter point came into clear focus while working at 38LA654, Locus 1, where an intact 19th century cellar/pit feature was uncovered at approximately 50 cm below surface. Based on the data collected during the Phase I survey, this deeply buried historic feature was thought to be a possible prehistoric hearth/cooking feature.

Regarding “a closer examination of the primary and secondary sources of the lithic raw material,” this is beyond the scope of a Phase II evaluation study. In fact, when sourcing highly variable metamorphosed materials from within the same subregion, we would assert that discriminating materials from different sources with certainty would be difficult. Haile geologists who are familiar with these sub-regional lithics state that tracing metasandstone, metasilstone, cherts/silicates, and metavolcanics to original sources probably is not possible.

5) The use of a diachronic approach sounds good, but it is very difficult to find the contextual clarity needed to achieve it at Haile due to post-formational processes. Single component sites aside, if one can not assign reasonably specific portions of the archeological record at a specific site to specific groups, we can not accurately study change over time. There is a great deal of overlap in activity areas both vertically and horizontally. Obviously, we can make general statements about the presence/absence of specific groups at a site based on diagnostics, but post-formational processes preclude us from understanding how individual groups organized/used space.

6) Assessing each archeological site under all NRHP eligibility criteria. Technically, we can understand this request for historic period archeological resources. For years there has been a generally unspoken rule stating that: “of course we consider all NRHP eligibility criteria when evaluating a site, but for the sake of brevity without compromising quality, we all understand that if we are evaluating a prehistoric resource, Criterion (d) is the only real concern unless we say otherwise.” For prehistoric resources evaluated during the current study, there are no links to events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of history [Criterion (a)], associations with prominent individuals [Criterion (b)], or exemplary architecture, etc. [Criterion (c)].

7) “Rock cluster” in Test Unit 2 at 38LA602. Note that we were careful in the report not to call this concentration of rocks a “rock cluster.” This was interpreted as a natural feature for the following reasons:

A) All three strata exposed in Test Unit 2 contained natural/unmodified quartz and gravel. So, the “concentration” of quartz rocks shown in Figure 11.4 is somewhat artificial; these larger natural rocks were left in place during photography because at least some of them intruded into the subsoil and into the east wall of the unit. We did not want a collapsed profile or a gouged unit floor.

B) This “natural” quartz exhibited geologically weathered surfaces/edges instead of the relatively “fresh” surface of archeological quartz debitage/shatter. There is no evidence of heat alteration or cracking due to immersion cooking. It is absolutely essential that archeologists working in this area be very critical of what they are calling natural rock/gravel versus rubble/shatter generated archeologically. Failure to do so can have significant consequences when establishing site boundaries, siting test units, interpreting data, and making recommendations.

C) Logic tells us that if these and the other quartz rock from Test Unit 2 were quarry/early stage reduction-related, the unit would have produced five times as much debitage as it did (n=106).

8) The second paragraph on page 143 “and throughout the report.” To clarify again, this site (38LA622) is the only one of the 21 prehistoric loci evaluated during the Phase II study that falls into the “quarry” category. Furthermore, we took the following statement from the Phase I survey report (Adams *et al.* 2012:89) into consideration: “It is possible that elements and activity areas from quarrying can be distinguished. The outcrop has been recognized and it is possible that an area of ore dressing and lithic reduction will be identified through additional work.” However, identifying such work areas near a quartz outcrop that is known to have been worked is pretty much a forgone conclusion. Actually finding such a work area does not make it significant. In fact, it is quite predictable and the process is fairly well understood.

The “desirability” of artifact diversity. Most of the time, shovel test artifact density and diversity are key to making decisions about where larger units should be placed. While artifact density is fairly straightforward, artifact “diversity” includes not only artifact type/technological attributes but also consideration of raw material. Equally important is the nature, extent, and condition of the occupational/use surface(s) based on soil types/depths, etc.

Through shovel testing, our work confirmed that the 38LA622 locus was a quartz extraction point and that the area surrounding Shovel Test N500/E495 was in fact an area used to reduce the material into cores and bifaces. Though diversity was limited, the presence of cores/bifaces in addition to the debitage (i.e., slightly higher diversity) was an important factor in siting the test unit. The complete lack of domestic artifacts strongly argues that this was an expedient quarry centered on quartz reduction - a highly repetitive process that produces massive amounts of very similar debitage. For example, archeologists familiar with quartz reduction know that quartz debitage has a tendency to shatter during reduction, therefore leaving very high frequencies of flake fragments and very few functional or temporal diagnostics.

Another important consideration is that shovel testing and unit excavation at 38LA622 indicate that archeological materials at this quarry locus are surficial (i.e., surface to 20 or 30 cm below surface). That is, the archeological living/use surface has not been protected from the various historic period cycles of clearing/logging and silviculture. Much of the contextual clarity in this area has been compromised.

9) The historic feature at 38LA654, Locus 1. This feature was a complete surprise to us; however, the research conducted for the Clyburn house sites, which were on the Clyburn Plantation property, appears to overlap with the property containing this feature. From 1843 into the early 1860s, at least 18 slaves were present on Clyburn Plantation, possibly more. While this feature may not be slave or freedman-related, it

is similar in morphology to slave cellars identified in the southeast and mid-Atlantic states. If this is a slave cellar, there are specific expectations -confirmed through excavations at known slave cabins- concerning where the cellar was within the cabin.

In closing, it is our opinion that the issues raised by the SHPO have been appropriately addressed in this response. We assert that the Phase II report, as presented without substantive modification, provides the information required for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, through consultation with the SHPO, to determine the NRHP eligibility status of the 13 archeological resources evaluated, and to assess potential project effects. We strongly feel that our recommendations and justifications for those recommendations are appropriate. Please contact me at 770-345-0706 if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Sincerely,
R.S. WEBB & ASSOCIATES

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.S. Webb', written in a cursive style.

Robert S. (Steve) Webb
President and Senior Principal Archeologist

Technical Comments

- Please include representative profiles or photographs of the STPs at the 38BU155 and in the locations where STPs were excavated searching for the other two sites.
- Please include a section that discusses lab methods and curation location for the artifacts that were recovered.
- Please provide a more in-depth discussion of previous research that has been conducted at the 38LA155, 38LA37, and 38LA188.



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

November 20, 2013

Regulatory Division

Ms. Emily Dale
State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives & History
8301 Parkland Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

Subject: **Haile Gold Mine, Inc., Lancaster County, South Carolina SAC 1992-24122-4IA**
SHPO Letter Regarding Phase II Testing of 13 Sites, Revised Draft Report, Haile
Gold Mine, Lancaster County, South Carolina
SHPO Number 09-CC0051

Dear Ms. Dale:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) serves as the lead federal agency for compliance with *Appendix C of 33 CFR 325* regarding cultural resources associated with the Haile Gold Mine Project (Project). Pursuant to *33 CFR 325 Appendix C Part 5* implementing the National Historic Preservation Act, the USACE requested the concurrence of the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in regard to its findings for the Determination of Eligibility (for the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]) and Determination of Project Effects for the Project to date in a letter dated September 17, 2013. The letter specifically addressed the Phase II testing conducted at 13 sites within the Haile Gold Mine in Lancaster County.

The USACE appreciates the SHPO's comments contained in its October 14, 2013 letter regarding the Phase II testing at 13 sites and is pleased to provide additional clarification to its previously submitted information. The USACE consultation for these sites built upon the scope of work proposed by the applicant and its consultants with approval by the SHPO, and evaluated eligibility of the 13 sites under all NRHP criteria. Only those that were applicable to the determinations were noted in the report.

The research design implemented by R.S. Webb & Associates was approved by Dr. Jodi Barnes (SHPO) on February 21, 2012. The USACE believes the Phase II testing efforts meets the approved research design, which did not include geochemical analyses or lithic raw material sourcing studies. Furthermore, the USACE's position is that chemical sampling is more appropriate for Phase III data recovery examinations.

For additional clarity, the italicized font below includes excerpts from an R.S. Webb & Associates letter, dated November 6, 2013 that Haile Gold Mine, Inc. submitted to the USACE on November 8, 2013, and addresses the site-specific issue raised by the SHPO.

1) The SHPO asserts that RSWA overlooked the fact that most of the prehistoric sites investigated are “quarry” sites instead of “domestic” sites. Actually, only one of the sites tested, 38LA622, is a quarry/initial reduction locus. The remaining 20 prehistoric occupations/loci sampled range from very light lithic reduction loci/stations to fairly dense lithic reduction locations with minor/limited evidence of residential/domestic activities (e.g. task camps). Technically, the more dense lithic reduction loci appear to be a step or two advanced from extraction or even initial reduction localities. These sites look like locations where groups were gearing up with cores/bifaces. The general lack of group maintenance-related artifacts and features strongly suggests short term occupation.

2) The “feature identification through the location of soil and midden stains” problem on aeolian/marine sands landscapes and major stream levees is an issue we’ve (i.e., RSWA, our previous entities, and many others) wrestled with since the 1980s and before. However, this is not always an issue in such settings. Please recall that during the current Phase II project we visually detected, excavated, and recorded a radiocarbon-date-confirmed Middle Archaic-era pine stump feature at 38LA727. So, it is clearly possible to identify prehistoric archeological features and/or anthropogenic plumes at Haile Gold Mine. Furthermore, we’ve observed various natural soil discolorations (e.g., tree root discolorations, rodent features, insect drills in buried contexts) at a number of sites in similar sandy environments. The real issue is the temporary and specific task-driven nature of the occupation(s) being studied. If a small group spends 12 hours at a site and leaves little behind, their living space and the organization of that space will be archeologically invisible.

3) Use of “geochemical” analysis to find living surfaces and features at Haile Gold Mine. This request is beyond the scope of Phase II testing. Furthermore, based on the recent data recovery work at sites 38LA334 and 38LA355 (Adams et al. 2010), there is no clear evidence that geochemical test data (i.e., phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, magnetic susceptibility, organic matter concentration) directly correlate with prehistoric living space or any specific human activity. There is limited speculation/interpretation about what the results could mean, but nothing concrete. Simple presence/absence does not “explain” anything, and there are reasonable alternative explanations. Concentrations of magnesium and potassium for example, can be the result of forest fires, and calcium and phosphorus can be introduced by many kinds of living creatures. Considering these findings, I would respectfully recommend against these types of analyses at Haile Gold Mine - at least at the Phase I and II levels of investigation.

4) “Useful ways of approaching ... seemingly ‘redundant’ quarry sites...” To reiterate, only one of the 21 prehistoric occupations/loci qualifies as a quarry locus. Most of the loci RSWA evaluated are lithic reduction locations/stations geared toward core/biface production. Several manifest limited evidence of hunting/animal processing, biotic collection, and/or group maintenance activities. More importantly, the archeologically visible/currently interpretable information contained in these types of sites is highly redundant. That is undeniable. But that’s not the problem. Post-formational processes are the problem. In our research design, RSWA provides examples of how contextual clarity is limited -at best- on these kinds of sites at Haile Gold Mine. We would add to that the potential level of historic agricultural/silvicultural disturbance observed at the sites investigated. For us, this latter point came into clear focus while working at 38LA654, Locus 1, where an intact 19th century cellar/pit feature was uncovered at approximately 50 cm below surface. Based on the data collected during the Phase I

survey, this deeply buried historic feature was thought to be a possible prehistoric hearth/cooking feature.

Regarding "a closer examination of the primary and secondary sources of the lithic raw material," this is beyond the scope of a Phase II evaluation study. In fact, when sourcing highly variable metamorphosed materials from within the same subregion, we would assert that discriminating materials from different sources with certainty would be difficult. Haile geologists who are familiar with these sub-regional lithics state that tracing metasandstone, metasiltstone, cherts/silicates, and metavolcanics to original sources probably is not possible.

5) The use of a diachronic approach sounds good, but it is very difficult to find the contextual clarity needed to achieve it at Haile due to post-formational processes. Single component sites aside, if one can not assign reasonably specific portions of the archeological record at a specific site to specific groups, we can not accurately study change over time. There is a great deal of overlap in activity areas both vertically and horizontally. Obviously, we can make general statements about the presence/absence of specific groups at a site based on diagnostics, but post-formational processes preclude us from understanding how individual groups organized/used space.

6) Assessing each archeological site under all NRHP eligibility criteria. Technically, we can understand this request for historic period archeological resources. For years there has been a generally unspoken rule stating that: "of course we consider all NRHP eligibility criteria when evaluating a site, but for the sake of brevity without compromising quality, we all understand that if we are evaluating a prehistoric resource, Criterion (d) is the only real concern unless we say otherwise." For prehistoric resources evaluated during the current study, there are no links to events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of history [Criterion (a)], associations with prominent individuals [Criterion (b)], or exemplary architecture, etc. [Criterion (c)].

7) "Rock cluster" in Test Unit 2 at 38LA602. Note that we were careful in the report not to call this concentration of rocks a "rock cluster." This was interpreted as a natural feature for the following reasons:

A) All three strata exposed in Test Unit 2 contained natural/unmodified quartz and gravel. So, the "concentration" of quartz rocks shown in Figure 11.4 is somewhat artificial; these larger natural rocks were left in place during photography because at least some of them intruded into the subsoil and into the east wall of the unit. We did not want a collapsed profile or a gouged unit floor.

B) This "natural" quartz exhibited geologically weathered surfaces/edges instead of the relatively "fresh" surface of archeological quartz debitage/shatter. There is no evidence of heat alteration or cracking due to immersion cooking. It is absolutely essential that archeologists working in this area be very critical of what they are calling natural rock/ gravel versus rubble/shatter generated archeologically. Failure to do so can have significant consequences when establishing site boundaries, siting test units, interpreting data, and making recommendations.

C) Logic tells us that if these and the other quartz rock from Test Unit 2 were quarry/early stage reduction-related, the unit would have produced five times as much debitage as it did (n=106).

8) The second paragraph on page 143 "and throughout the report." To clarify again, this site (38LA622) is the only one of the 21 prehistoric loci evaluated during the Phase II study that falls into the "quarry" category. Furthermore, we took the following statement from the Phase I survey report (Adams et al. 2012:89) into consideration: "It is possible that elements and activity areas from quarrying can be distinguished. The outcrop has been recognized and it is possible that an area of ore dressing and lithic reduction will be identified through additional work." However, identifying such work areas near a quartz outcrop that is known to have been worked is pretty much a forgone conclusion. Actually finding such a work area does not make it significant. In fact, it is quite predictable and the process is fairly well understood.

The "desirability" of artifact diversity. Most of the time, shovel test artifact density and diversity are key to making decisions about where larger units should be placed. While artifact density is fairly straightforward, artifact "diversity" includes not only artifact type/technological attributes but also consideration of raw material. Equally important is the nature, extent, and condition of the occupational/use surface(s) based on soil types/depths, etc.

Through shovel testing, our work confirmed that the 38LA622 locus was a quartz extraction point and that the area surrounding Shovel Test N500/E495 was in fact an area used to reduce the material into cores and bifaces. Though diversity was limited, the presence of cores/bifaces in addition to the debitage (i.e., slightly higher diversity) was an important factor in siting the test unit. The complete lack of domestic artifacts strongly argues that this was an expedient quarry centered on quartz reduction - a highly repetitive process that produces massive amounts of very similar debitage. For example, archeologists familiar with quartz reduction know that quartz debitage has a tendency to shatter during reduction, therefore leaving very high frequencies of flake fragments and very few functional or temporal diagnostics.

Another important consideration is that shovel testing and unit excavation at 38LA622 indicate that archeological materials at this quarry locus are surficial (i.e., surface to 20 or 30 cm below surface). That is, the archeological living/use surface has not been protected from the various historic period cycles of clearing/logging and silviculture. Much of the contextual clarity in this area has been compromised.

9) The historic feature at 38LA654, Locus 1. This feature was a complete surprise to us; however, the research conducted for the Clyburn house sites, which were on the Clyburn Plantation property, appears to overlap with the property containing this feature. From 1843 into the early 1860s, at least 18 slaves were present on Clyburn Plantation, possibly more. While this feature may not be slave or freedman-related, it is similar in morphology to slave cellars identified in the southeast and mid-Atlantic states. If this is a slave cellar, there are specific expectations -confirmed through excavations at known slave cabins- concerning where the cellar was within the cabin.

In light of this additional information, the USACE requests your concurrence with our previous findings regarding the Phase II report on 13 sites. The USACE greatly appreciates

your participation in this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Darden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" being more prominent than the last name "Darden".

Richard L. Darden, Ph.D.
Project Manager

Enclosure:

Letter: R.S. Webb & Associates response to South Carolina SHPO Comments

Copy Furnished:

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Mr. Larry Long
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Seattle, Washington 98104



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

December 4, 2013

Regulatory Division

Mr. Reid Nelson
Director, Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 803
Washington, DC 20004

Subject: **Haile Gold Mine, Inc., Lancaster County, South Carolina**
Government-to-Government Consultation Initiation
SAC 1992-24122-4IA

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is writing to you to inquire whether the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) desires to comment or participate in the consultation regarding the proposed Haile Gold Mine Project (Undertaking). In addition to the background information set forth below, enclosed please find documentation for the ACHP to consider in deciding whether it will participate in the consultation process. This office requests that the ACHP advise USACE in writing whether it will participate in the consultation within 15 days of receipt of this notice.

Federal agency participation includes the USACE as the lead agency and USEPA as cooperating agency for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Please note that The Catawba Indian Nation and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) are non-federal cooperating agencies based on their respective expertise and authorities related to this undertaking. In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as implemented in 36 CFR Part 800, and 33 CFR 325 Appendix C, the USACE is consulting with The Catawba Indian Nation, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

The EIS process began on September 29, 2011, when a Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the *Federal Register* (Volume 76, Number 189, p.60474) advertising a scoping meeting held on October 27, 2011 (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>). The USACE is conducting the Section 106 and NEPA processes concurrently for this undertaking.

Project Summary

The USACE intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to identify the potential social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed construction and operation of a gold mine in order to extract and process gold from the Haile ore body in wetlands and streams associated with Haile Gold Mine Creek, by Haile Gold Mine, Inc. (Haile) in the vicinity of Kershaw, Lancaster County, SC. The EIS will be prepared in two stages: a DEIS and a Final EIS (FEIS). Both of these documents will be circulated for public comment, and a Public Hearing will be held after the circulation of the DEIS. Ultimately, when the USACE is prepared to make a final decision on the application, the agency will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD).

Consultation

The USACE is inviting you to participate in the Appendix C and Section 106 consultation process. Because this effort will be conducted in a parallel track with the NEPA process, your participation will allow the USACE to closely coordinate the Appendix C and Part 800 requirements with the NEPA process. Information on the USACE's Cultural Resources Study Area, also referred to as the Area of Potential Effect (APE) under Section 106, will be provided to you as part of a project information packet if you choose to participate in consultation at this time. You may have already been contacted by the USACE regarding participating in consultation for this undertaking if you are registered to receive notices for the Charleston office at: <http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/?action=publicnotices.signup>. If this is your first correspondence from the USACE, please consider receiving electronic notices to ensure rapid and regular notifications and updates. We also respectfully ask that you respond to this letter to indicate your interest in becoming a consulting party for this undertaking.

Potential Effects

This undertaking has the potential to affect historic properties. Haile has conducted field surveys to identify historic properties that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) within the proposed mine boundaries. The USACE is currently consulting with the South Carolina SHPO, in addition to other consulting parties, to finalize determinations of eligibility to the NRHP and to identify measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to these historic properties, as necessary. These measures may include avoidance, fencing sites or portions of sites to ensure that they are not disturbed during construction, monitoring of construction activities, data recovery at the sites, or creative mitigation strategies.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is being developed by the USACE and the consulting parties. A Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) and Unanticipated Discoveries Plan (UDP) are being developed by Haile, subject to review and approval by the USACE in consultation with the consulting parties. The MOA will provide an outline for completing evaluations of cultural resources for listing in the NRHP, as well as a plan for the treatment of documented historic properties and cemeteries, training and education for Haile personnel and contractors, emergency response procedures, and dispute resolution measures. The CRMP will provide the plan for completing the evaluations of cultural resources, and the

UDP will describe measures to be followed in the event that previously undocumented cultural resources are discovered during construction activities. The CRMP and UDP will be appendices to the MOA and will constitute important environmental commitments made by the applicant and enforced by the USACE in conditions attached to any permit that may be issued.

Details of the Activity

The undertaking proposed by Haile is to reactivate the existing Haile Gold Mine near Kershaw, SC for the development of gold resources, to expand the area for open pit mining, and to construct associated facilities. The Haile Gold Mine project area encompasses approximately 4,552 acres. Mining will occur in phases involving eight open mining pits over a twelve-year period, with pit depths ranging from 110 to 840 feet deep. The proposed work includes mechanized land clearing, grubbing, temporary stockpiling, filling, and excavation that will directly impact 120.46 acres of freshwater wetlands and 26,460 linear feet of streams. Construction drawings provided by the applicant are included in the original joint public notice of January 28, 2011, and are available on the Charleston District public web site at <http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/?action=publicnotices.pn2011>.

The DEIS is scheduled to be publicly available in March 2014. A Public Hearing will be conducted following the release of the DEIS. If you wish to comment or participate in the consultation process, please forward your response within 15 days of this notice.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Richard Darden at 843-329-8043 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.

Sincerely,

for: John Litz
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commander and District Engineer

Tina B. Hadden
Chief, Regulatory Division

Copy Furnished:

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